



**Bishkek
International
School**

Environmental Policy



Reviewed by the Management Board: August 2019
Previous Review: Not applicable

Approved by the Governing Board: August 2019

Preface

Mission, Policies, Handbooks and Regulations

The Mission of Bishkek International School is to enable our students to:

- Develop their intellectual curiosity and achieve their academic, sporting and creative potential;
- Be confident in their abilities and respectful of others;
- Learn about local and global issues and prepare to tackle common challenges.

In a school which:

- Delivers and celebrates excellent teaching for internationally accredited education;
- Values diversity and inclusivity;
- Promotes the well-being of the whole school community;
- Contributes positively to development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

This policy is one of several policies, procedures and related documents that guide operations at Bishkek International School (BIS) and help to facilitate the achievement of our mission. The full list of relevant documents, prepared by the Management Board and approved by the Governing Board, comprises:

Policies:

1. Vision, Mission and Development Policy
2. Admissions Policy
3. Inclusive Education Policy
4. Language Policy
5. Academic Honesty Policy
6. Assessment Policy
7. Health & Safety Policy
8. Child Protection Policy
9. Educational Visits Policy
10. Ethics Policy
11. Environmental Policy
12. Accounting Policy

Handbooks:

1. Staff Handbook
2. Parents & Guardian Handbook
3. Student Handbook

All Governing Board members and all staff must be aware of each of these documents and their contents. All policy documents and handbooks are available to students and parents/guardians via the BIS website or provided in PDF form to parents/guardians on request. All policy documents and handbooks are reviewed and revised by the Management Board every year, normally in April/May for approval by the Governing Board in June for the following academic year. All students, parents and staff are invited to send comments and suggest any changes to the Management Board at any time before the end of April each year for consideration for policies/handbooks for the next academic year.

Overall Governance of BIS is guided by the legal charter and various internal regulations. These are:

1. Legal Charter of 'ESCA-Bishkek International School'
2. Regulations of the Governing Board
3. Regulations of the Parents Association
4. Regulations of the Advisory Council

International Baccalaureate

BIS is an International Baccalaureate World School, offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and the Primary Years Programme (PYP). IB World Schools share a common philosophy and commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that BIS believes is important for our students. For further information about International Baccalaureate, see www.ibo.org

International Baccalaureate mission statement

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right”

International Baccalaureate Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

1. **Inquirers:** Develop a natural curiosity that allows them to become lifelong learners.
2. **Knowledgeable:** They explore ideas of importance and dig deep into its meaning creating a balance of their learning.
3. **Thinkers:** They apply thinking skills that allow them to tackle complex problems in creative ways.
4. **Communicators:** They understand and can articulate information in confident, creative ways, including a second language.
5. **Principled:** Students are honest, fair, just and full of integrity. They strive to solve their own problems and to take responsibility for their own actions.
6. **Open-minded:** Students understand and embrace other cultures. They recognize and celebrate their own backgrounds and learn tolerance for others.
7. **Caring:** Students actively care about others and participate in active service.
8. **Risk-Takers:** Students are brave in the face of new challenges. They strive to take on new roles and to defend their own beliefs.
9. **Balanced:** Students understand the need to be emotionally, physically and mentally balanced. They strive for this in themselves and others.
10. **Reflective:** Students reflect on their own learning. They are able to adjust for weaknesses and strengths.

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	OBJECTIVES	1
3	MINIMIZE WASTE AND RECYCLING	2
	Paper Use and Recycling	2
	Plastic Use and Recycling	2
	Other Materials Use and Recycling	3
4	FOOD	3
5	WATER	3
6	ENERGY USE – ZERO CARBON GOAL	3
7	TRANSPORT	4
8	PURCHASING POLICY	4
9	THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT	4
10	IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THIS POLICY	4

1 Introduction

The world is facing an environmental crisis. If we continue along the road travelled for the last 60 years, climate change and collapsing diversity will pose serious, existential threats. The consequences and sources of these threats must be urgently addressed as our students look forward to the next 60 years and adjust the direction our planet is heading.

These statements may seem extreme but, based on the best science available, they represent reality. Against this background the BIS Environmental Policy outlined in this document is prudent, outlining real steps we will take to ensure our students hope for the future.

What we do at BIS has a much bigger impact than just at our own campus. It impacts our suppliers, our students, their families, and everyone they can influence while setting a proximal example to others in the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia as a whole.

In this policy, we set targets and standards which may seem unachievable but they must eventually be achieved, not just in our school but everywhere.

Our aim is not to step back to a pre-industrial time, since many advances have provided exceptional benefits for life and learning. Instead, we should look at the costs and benefits of each advance and decide if we can afford them and how we can appropriately utilize them. For example, is our wellbeing really enhanced by:

- One more disposable cup or plate or bag so that we do not have to provide our own or pay a little bit more;
- Burning coal to create heat if our roof is not insulated
- Spraying chemicals on the grass to kill weeds”?

We are sure that we can enjoy life just as much without the above wasteful practices and many more we do that are destroying our world. Even as we ask this, it is perhaps the wrong question. Maybe we should instead ask: are we so selfish that we want to keep doing these things even though they destroy the future of our children?

At BIS, our answer is clear. We want a world that can be enjoyed and marveled at by our students, their children, and their children’s children. We have no choice. We must act!

This Environmental Policy is our first response.

2 Objectives

BIS is committed to educating students to respect and protect the natural environment. We have a duty to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world’s resources wisely, and to make a positive contribution to the world by improving our local area. We therefore aim to develop good habits and behavior patterns amongst staff and pupils.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact the world on a national and global scale. To this end, we promote and encourage environmental education in all aspects of everyday life.

The ways in which we will strive toward our goal of minimal negative environmental impact is to **reduce** the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, **recycle** and **re-use** materials whenever and wherever possible, restore what is deemed to have been destroyed, and **respect** our neighbors and environment.

In our immediate school vicinity, our aim is to provide and maintain an environment which:

- Contributes positively to the learning, well-being, attitudes, behaviors, and motivations of students;

- Provides a safe and stimulating learning environment;
- Enables children to make maximum use of the opportunities provided by the school campus;
- Provides a safe, comfortable, and motivating place of work for all BIS staff;
- Is attractive to visitors;
- Reflects our values of care and respect toward each other and our school.

3 Minimize Waste and Recycling

Paper Use and Recycling

We will:

1. Eliminate non-essential use of paper.
2. Only buy certified recycled paper for toilet rolls and hand drying paper towels.
3. Install electric-powered air hand dryers in all bathrooms.
4. Photocopy on both sides or always re-use single sided A4 paper.
5. Print two pages to a sheet, when possible.
6. Check carefully that we are only printing essential pages.
7. Use scrap paper, instead of a clean sheet of paper, wherever possible.
8. Ensure that all used paper has staples and other contaminant removed and is placed in paper recycling boxes.
9. Have multiple paper recycling boxes throughout the school.
10. Ensure that paper recycling boxes are emptied weekly and are never full during the school week.

Plastic Use and Recycling

We will:

1. Eliminate all single-use throwaway plastics from the school environment.
 - No disposable plastic bags or other disposable plastic items will be allowed on the school grounds from August 2019.
 - All suppliers will be informed that paper-based packaging must be used for their continuous supplies.
 - When suppliers cannot be influenced (e.g. packaging around imported equipment, plastic will be recycled where possible)
 - When finding suppliers without plastic packaging cannot be easily found for school purchased supplies (e.g. cleaning products in plastic containers) the school will work with suppliers to establish recycle and refill schemes.
2. Only laminate paper if it has a minimum 6-month life of use.
3. Have a plastic recycle bin for use by facilities staff to recycle any plastics that cannot be eliminated from the school and can be recycled.
4. When recycling, understand that there are more than seven different kinds of plastics which cannot be recycled together and that many items have different plastics for different

components making recycling impossible for many plastic items, so the only solution is to only use plastics for long term use and then effectively manage reuse or disposal.

Other Materials Use and Recycling

We will:

1. Recycle metal cans and other metal waste to metal recycling.
2. Recycle used batteries to certified recyclers.

4 Food

We will:

1. Always choose natural sustainable products over processed goods when purchasing.
2. Avoid food purchases that have a detrimental impact on the environment related to their chemical use or transport systems.
3. Always purchase products from Kyrgyzstan or within Central Asia to minimize transport damage to the environment.
4. Minimize food waste and ensure that any edible waste is given to livestock smallholders.
5. Ensure that vegetable peelings and other appropriate kitchen waste goes to compost bins.

5 Water

We will:

1. Minimize water use and waste at school.
2. Help students understand that conserving water is vital to our future.
3. Collect rainwater to irrigate plants and trees on site.

6 Energy Use – Zero Carbon Goal

We will:

1. Design classrooms to use natural light and natural ventilation where possible.
2. Install excess insulation around all buildings to minimize heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer
3. Only use LED lights throughout the school.
4. Train staff and students to switch off lights in classrooms before leaving the classroom.
5. Ensure all computer monitors are switched off whenever they are left unattended.
6. Paint all school roofs white to minimize heat gain in roof spaces OR have natural garden flat roofs for wildlife use.
7. Minimize the use of air conditioners in the school.
8. Make all members of the school community aware of the link between electric energy use and coal consumption, directly leading to air pollution in Bishkek.
9. Use our own gas-fired heating system as a cleaner option than coal-fired city heating
10. Ensure that radiators have thermostat controls and are managed efficiently so that windows are not opened when heating is working.

11. Seek capital funding donation to install renewable energy sources, such as solar power.

7 Transport

We will:

1. Raise awareness about the impact of transport to the environment and to people's health.
2. Encourage all students, staff, and remaining members of the BIS community to walk, use a bicycle, and/or use school buses to get to school
3. Replace diesel powered school buses with electric powered school buses by 2021

8 Purchasing Policy

We will:

1. Buy recycled, recyclable, less toxic, and locally-produced products whenever possible.
2. Use natural/renewable materials in capital projects whenever possible.

9 The Outdoor Environment

We will:

1. Keep the outside environment of school as natural as possible with minimum use of unnatural or unsustainable materials.
2. Not use any damaging pesticides or herbicides in the outside environment.
3. Ensure that the grounds provide for recreational use by students as well as provision to undertake exercise.
4. Introduce a scheme for every student and staff member to plant and take care of at least 2 trees every year in the Bishkek environment.
5. Ensure that all garden waste and appropriate kitchen waste.¹
6. Be aware that the school grounds provide the visitor with the first impression of the school and will influence the attitude and behavior of the students, so must be maintained in good order.

10 Implementing and Monitoring this Policy

All staff and students are involved in implementation and review of this policy. They should recommend action that could be taken to meet the policy's aims, help to implement all actions in the policy, and recommend any changes in the policy to improve the positive impact on the environment.

We will:

1. Ensure that sustainability is covered consistently throughout the school in our curriculum.
2. Use the school grounds as a source of teaching and learning opportunities for students.
3. Establish projects within the Eco-Bishkek Program to meet the aims of this policy.

¹ We will follow the guide linked here: <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/compost/how-to-compost/>