



SCHOOL CALENDAR AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS POLICY

Introduction

As required by ADEK, Merryland International School follows the set common structure by creating and seeking approval for a school calendar in compliance with ADEK's requirements. In addition, Merryland observes public holidays to foster social cohesion in line with the UAE national identity. This policy sets out the basic procedures for creating, submitting and communicating the school calendar and observing public holidays.

Definitions

Public Holiday: The non-working days corresponding to religious celebrations, national events, or other occasions declared as public holidays in the UAE.

School Break: A period during which Merryland School is closed and no compulsory activities (e.g., classes) are conducted. School breaks include summer, spring, and winter breaks. However, grades 10, 11 and 12 students will have additional classes during these breaks to prepare them for their board examinations with the prior permission from ADEK.

School Calendar: The school calendar comprises the number of actual school days during the academic year, the school start and end dates, public holidays, school holidays, and any other dates as determined by ADEK.



Policy

1. School Calendar

1.1 Submitting the School Calendar: Merryland School will submit a school calendar on the ADEK Calendar System for ADEK's approval, in line with the requirements outlined below.

1. The school may choose to adopt the dates suggested by ADEK on the Calendar System or develop its calendar that meets ADEK's mandatory boundaries (e.g., in relation to start and end dates, school breaks, and the number of teaching days).

2. Examinations: Merryland School includes the schedule for its examinations, including board and other pre-collegiate exams within the school calendar.

3. Timeline for Submission: The school submits the calendar according to the timeline specified by ADEK.

4. Communication of the School Calendar: Once approved by ADEK, Merryland School communicates the school calendar to staff, students, and parents via email and by publishing on the school's website.

2. Public Holidays

Merryland School will observe all public holidays specified on the ADEK Calendar System and include them in the school calendar.

2.1. Sessions on Public Holidays:

Merryland School may conduct a school session on a public holiday in cases where there is a conflict with international or external examination dates. Prior approval from ADEK will be taken in such instances.



2.2 School break:

- The school will make every effort to align our major breaks with other schools following the same curriculum.
- Merryland regularly offers additional classes during school breaks to new students and those preparing for external exams, after obtaining the necessary permission from ADEK. Attendance is optional, but we strongly encourage all students to participate. These sessions are the best way to maximize student progress!

3. Compliance

Merryland School is aware that failure to comply with this policy shall be subject to legal accountability and penalties in accordance with ADEK's regulations, policies, and requirements, notwithstanding any other penalties imposed by Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law or any other relevant law.

Official Supporting Documents:

ADEK_School_School Calendar and Public Holidays Policy_v.1.0 2024 (January)
Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), Abu Dhabi

This policy will be reviewed every year.

Principal



Reviewed on 02 June 2026

Merryland International School is an outstanding ISO 9001-certified British Curriculum K-12 school in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It provides high-quality education to pupils of more than 40 nationalities. For the past four decades, Merryland has been a pioneer in education, remaining true to its motto 'Changing lives... nations wide'.

