



# AISA Membership Definitions





**International mindedness – an understanding and celebration of the value of diversity in all its forms; empathy for those who are different while retaining pride in one’s own identity.**

An Internationally Minded AISA school community:

- is committed to defining global culturalism and identifying its ideals
- engages in the building of global citizenship through the development of an individual’s own cultural identity
- aligns school-wide resources with fundamental values and beliefs
- promotes respectful and sensitive attitudes toward persons different from oneself
- values academic diversity of the faculty and staff
- ensures that the values and benefits of the vision are understood and accepted by all constituents
- ensures informed decision-making and planning take place to confront racial, ethnic and religious discrimination

*(adapted from Swetz, 2014)*

**Intercultural competence – the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in intercultural situations based on one’s intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes.**

An Interculturally Competent AISA school community:

- understands the cultures (values, norms and beliefs) their students bring to school and, equally importantly, the ways these influence how the students learn;
- understands that their student populations are not intellectually, ethnically, culturally or nationally homogeneous;
- recognizes the importance of addressing the complexities associated with language learning and in their schools;
- builds an international consciousness for a “better world”;
- works with parents and other community groups;
- using culturally sensitive conversation techniques and support teachers developing an array of suitable techniques at their disposal;
- leads staff of different cultural and national backgrounds;
- understands the context of a situation and appropriately choose the correct leadership style;
- helps new staff settle into their school; and
- provides development opportunities so teachers are both aware of and have the capacity to teach students from different cultural and national backgrounds

*(adapted from Walker & Cheong, 2009)*



**International education describes the education occurring within an international school.**

An AISA School offering an International Education:

- develops citizens of the world in relation to culture, language, and the capacity to live together;
- builds and reinforces students' sense of identity and cultural awareness;
- fosters students' recognition and development of universal human values;
- stimulates curiosity and inquiry in order to foster a spirit of discovery and enjoyment of learning;
- equips students with skills to learn and acquire knowledge, individually or collaboratively, and to apply these skills and knowledge accordingly across a broad range of areas;
- provides international content while responding to local requirements and interests;
- encourages diversity and flexibility in teaching methods; and
- provides appropriate forms of assessment and international benchmarking.

*(adapted from International Baccalaureate Organization 2016)*