

American International School of Niamey Philosophy Statement

The American International School of Niamey (AISN) is committed to the pursuit of excellence in education while nurturing the learner, the learning process, and the quality of relationships among its stakeholders.

AISN is committed to fostering an active cooperation among the school constituents to meet students' general and specific learning needs, as well as a genuine appreciation of the richness of diverse gender, ethnic, and religious backgrounds within a constructivist learning philosophy¹. Therefore, our dynamic multicultural curriculum enhanced by the integration of emerging technologies² will promote students' creativity and critical thinking skills, as well as their communication and problem solving skills. Quality education of the whole person at AISN aims at developing intellectual, cultural, social, physical and emotional growth.

AISN also believes that all staff and students should be valued as individuals, and that they have the right to a safe and challenging learning environment. This will be achieved through developing a sense of respect and appreciation that prepares students for responsible, global citizenship.

¹ **Constructivist learning philosophy:** Constructivism is a philosophy of learning founded on the premise that, by reflecting on our experiences, we construct our own understanding of the world we live in. Each of us generates our own "rules" and "mental models," which we use to make sense of our experiences. Learning, therefore, is simply the process of adjusting our mental models to accommodate new experiences. (Retrieved on March 26, 2007 from <http://www.funderstanding.com/constructivism.cfm>)

² **Emerging Technologies:** latest and most up-to-date technologies (software and hardware).