



Gulf Indian High School, Dubai



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION POLICY **(2023-2024)**

Approved & Adopted on	03.04.2023	To be reviewed	Annually
Reviewed by	Governing Body	Signed	

One of the milestones each year for students is celebrating their birthday. Celebrating student birthdays is important and should be acknowledged. Teachers honor children in the classroom on their special day.

Aim:

To ensure that birthday celebrations are conducted in such a way as to ensure the **safety and well-being of students** and do not conflict or interfere with the school's education programs or policies.

Implementation

- Birthdays are a special occasion acknowledged by singing a Happy Birthday song by their peers.
- Students will be made to feel **'special' on their birthday in ways suitable to their age group.**
- The safety and health of our students is of utmost importance therefore **food treats are not allowed.**

In keeping with the GIHS Health and Safety Policy and allergy concerns, **outside food is not permitted to be shared with students.**

- **Birthday cakes will not be permitted for sharing at school** as students with a wide range of moderate or severe allergies to various nuts, milk products, wheat, soy, strawberries, kiwi and much more may be part of the school's Learning Communities. It is exceedingly difficult to verify the ingredients in every food product that is brought to school. Birthday party celebrations will need to remain out of school hours. Cakes provided by parents cannot be distributed by staff to ensure the safety and well-being of students and that no student with an allergy feels discriminated against as they cannot participate. Teachers are not responsible for distributing party invitations.

- **Students of Kindergarten & Grade 1-4 are allowed to wear non-uniform clothes/color Dress to school on their birthday (modesty & cultural sensitivity must be maintained).**

- **Students of Grades 5-12 are not allowed to wear color dress during birthdays, they should attend the school in school uniforms only.**

All students are expected to comply with the dress code.

- Student birthday's which occur over the weekend, will have their birthday acknowledged on the following Monday.

We require that birthday celebrations are recognized through other means. We have provided the list below as other choices for honoring your children on their special day:

- Bring Small goodie bags filled with non-food novelties such as erasers, pencils, and stickers to distribute or provide each student in class with a colorful pencil, stickers or eraser.
- Donate a plant for the school Garden.
- Read a story to the class.
- Donate a book to the school library in honor of your child's birthday with his/her name inside.
- Have your child bring their favorite book to share and the teacher or child will read it to the class.
- Donate a ball or any other play equipment (new) to the classroom/PE Class.
- Choose favorite song or musical piece to sing or play for the class.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue to reflect on how to provide all students with a safe and healthy environment. A simple change in policy, which will continue to allow children to be honored on their birthday, is the prudent action to take. We welcome any other suggestions for simple, yet meaningful ways to recognize your child's birthday.