
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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1.0 Policy Statement

AFIA is committed to ensuring the safety, protection, and holistic well-being of every student. We believe that all children have the right to learn in a secure, supportive, and nurturing

environment. The school maintains a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, neglect, or harm and is dedicated to promoting a culture where students feel safe, valued, and cared for.

This policy reflects AFIA's adherence to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) student protection standards, national child welfare guidelines, and international best practices.

1.1 Aims, Purpose and Application of the Policy

Child protection refers to the procedures we use to protect children at risk of significant harm or who have been harmed. Child protection therefore forms a small part of safeguarding and promoting welfare, but effective child protection processes are an essential part of the wider work to safeguard and promote welfare; they also reduce the need for action to protect children from harm.

The policy emphasizes early and prompt intervention whenever a student is at risk, prioritizing their best interests and well-being. It also seeks to enable students to develop physically, psychologically, and academically in an environment that respects their rights and dignity, in alignment with the aspirations of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

AL Faisal International Academy fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding. It aims to ensure that students are effectively safeguarded from the potential risk of harm and that the safety and well-being of the student is of the highest priority in all aspects of the school's work. In addition, it aims to maintain an ethos whereby staff, students, parents and governors feel able to articulate concerns comfortably, safe in the knowledge that effective action will be taken as appropriate.

We aim to:

- Ensure that all stakeholders are aware of and take seriously their responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of students.
- Ensure that all adults who have contact with students in the school have been properly vetted and cleared as suitable to work and support student in our care/charge.
- Have in place clear procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse and for supporting students where a student protection need has been identified.
- Ensure that all adults who have contact with students in the school have been trained to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- Ensure that students within our school are safe at all times.
- Protect students from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect, and exploitation.
- Ensure the best interests of the student as a primary consideration in all decisions.
- Enable students to enjoy their right to education in a safe and stimulating environment.
- Promote justice, equality, and non-discrimination among all students.
- Respect cultural diversity while preserving Qatari identity and values.
- Encourage students to express their opinions in accordance with their age and level of maturity.
- Strengthen the partnership between families and the community in protecting students.
- Safeguard student privacy and protecting their data.

These aims will be met through:

- Safe working practice and clearly identified roles and responsibilities.
- Adherence to safe recruitment and selection practices.
- Regular professional development •
- Rigorous student protection procedures.

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- Effective induction and training.
 - Design of the school curriculum to equip student with the skills needed to keep themselves safe.
 - The security of the school site.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All students without exception
- All teaching staff
- Administrative and support staff
- Bus drivers and attendants
- Security personnel
- Volunteers and visitors
- Parents and visitors while present within the school premises.
- External service providers working with AFIA students
- Everyone working with or around students is responsible for their safety and care.

The policy also applies to both curricular and extracurricular educational activities organized by the school, whether on or off campus, taking into account students' psychological, social, mental, and health needs. This includes trips, sports and cultural activities, and electronic communication related to the school.

At AFIA, student protection is a shared responsibility. Students are expected to adhere to safe behaviors and follow school guidance to ensure their own safety as well as the safety of their peers. School leaders and owners are responsible for establishing, maintaining, and monitoring effective student protection systems. Parents, the school community, and the wider local community are also integral partners, working collaboratively to promote a safe, supportive, and protective environment for all students.

Legislative Context

Content aligned with Ministry of education and Higher education circular 15. Student protection and care policy. Current UK guidance is taken from the UK Department for Education (DfE) document: (1) Working Together to Safeguard Children (2019) and (2) Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022). KCSIE comes into effect from 1st September 2022.

At all times, we endeavour to adhere to all relevant Qatari legislation.

1.2 Partnership with Parents

The school shares a purpose with parents to educate students and keep them safe from harm. We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information until we have permission or it is necessary to do so to protect a student. Al Faisal International School will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place the child at risk of harm.

We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have with the school and make parents aware of our Safeguarding and Student Protection Policy which is available on the school website and on request from the school reception.

2.0 Staff Code of Conduct: Safer Working Practice, Roles and Responsibilities

All Al Faisal staff must complete and regularly review the Child Protection in Education online course or any other course considered appropriate by the deputy director. The certificate of completion of this course must be kept with the staff member's records by the Human Resources Department (or electronically on their HR files).

All members of the school staff have a responsibility to identify, and report suspected abuse or neglect and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students in the school. In doing so, they should seek advice and support as necessary from the DSL. (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

All staff are expected to provide a safe and caring environment in which children can develop the confidence to voice ideas, feelings and opinions. Children should be treated with respect within a framework of agreed and understood behaviour.

All staff are required to adhere to the policies, protocols, Code of Conduct and the standards in the Staff Handbook.

All staff are expected to o

- be aware of symptoms of abuse.
- report concerns to DSL as appropriate o keep clear, dated, factual and confidential records of child protection concerns.
- All staff are expected to attend regular and relevant professional development sessions.
- We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with students, members of staff are able to identify concerns early and provide help for students to prevent concerns from escalating. It is the responsibility of all adults working in school to:
- Establish and maintain a safe environment in which students can learn, where they feel secure and know and trust that there are adults who will listen to them and whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Identify students who may need extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.
- Take appropriate action, where such a need is identified, working with other services as required.

In addition, adults must comply with safe working practices to ensure that safeguarding is proactive and preventative, that is to:

- Be responsible for their own actions and behaviour and avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions.
- Work in an open and transparent way.
- Work with other colleagues where possible in situations open to question.
- Discuss and/or take advice from school management over any incident which may give rise to concern.
- Record any incident or decisions made.
- Apply the same professional standards to all colleagues.
- Be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them.
- Routinely undertake risk assessment and risk management relating to activities planned for students, the learning environment and people who will have access to students.

2.1 Recognising abuse and forms of abuse

Recognising Child Abuse

Child abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. There are four main types of child abuse. Child abuse can be physical, sexual, or emotional. It can also take the form of neglectful behaviour towards a child.

Physical Abuse

This can range from over-chastisement, slapping with the hand, a belt, a stick, or other object, to shaking, punching, or throwing a child across the room. It can lead directly to neurological damage, physical injuries, disability or – at the extreme – death. Harm may be caused by the abuse itself and by abuse taking place in a wider family or institutional context of conflict and aggression. It also includes a parent/career fabricating symptoms of or inducing illness in a child. Some physical abuse is reactive, and some may be clearly premeditated with an intent to cause harm.

Sexual Abuse

Is the involvement of a child or adolescent in sexual activities that s/he does not understand, cannot give consent to and which are not acceptable by our society. This includes inappropriate touching, taking of obscene photographs, producing/trading in child pornography (including via the Internet) as well as attempted or actual sexual intercourse. Its adverse effects may endure into adulthood.

Emotional Abuse

This ranges from rejecting a child, refusing to show a child love or affection, or making a child unhappy by continually belittling her/him or verbally abusing her/him. It has an important impact on a developing child's mental health, behaviour, and self-esteem. It may also include developmentally inappropriate expectations including overly high expectations which the child cannot fulfil. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may be features in families where children are exposed to such abuse. Emotional abuse may occur by omission or commission, and it is important the problems for a child's parents do not obscure professionals' view of their child's emotional development.

Bullying – serious bullying causing a child to feel frightened or in danger may now be regarded as emotional abuse.

Neglect

This can range from ignoring a child's developmental needs to not feeding or clothing her/him adequately and not properly supervising her/him. Persistent neglect can lead to serious impairment of health and development, and long-term difficulties with social functioning, relationships, and educational progress. Neglect may occur by omission or commission – it is important that problems for a child's parent do not obscure neglect of a child in the family.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);

- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and seminude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- up skirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

Whole school approach to Peer-on-Peer Abuse

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer-on-peer abuse). And that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of peer-on-peer abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports.

Al Faisal International Academy takes all allegations of peer-on-peer abuse extremely seriously. Staff are required to report any allegation of peer-on-peer abuse that is reported to them directly to the DSL. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Al Faisal International Academy recognizes that peer on peer abuse may be taking place within school, even if it is not reported. It is therefore important that all staff recognise the signs of peer-on-peer abuse and remain vigilant when around students.

Online safety and Peer on Peer Abuse

Al Faisal International Academy has an Online Safety Policy which is available to both staff (on Teams) and Parents on Teams and the school website. It is important that we are all aware that peer on peer abuse can often take place using social media. Therefore, staff must adhere to the rules on mobile phone use in school which are stated in the Online Safety/Social Media Policy and must bring to the attention of the DSL as well as the Deputy director any unauthorized mobile phone use in school as soon as it occurs. If a student reports peer on peer abuse which is being conducted via social media but outside of school hours this will be dealt with as a safeguarding issue and parents will be informed. It is important that parents are aware of the risks of internet use and to facilitate this a copy of the school's Online Safety Policy will be shared with parents at the beginning of the academic year.

Students reporting Peer on Peer Abuse

It is important that our students are aware of the support that is available if they are experiencing peer on peer abuse. As part of our learning programmes and anti-bullying week

students should be made aware of what to do if they experience this, or any type, of abuse, they should also be aware of what constitutes peer on peer abuse and that Al Faisal International Academy operates a zero-tolerance policy towards this type of behaviour.

Serious Violence

All Al Faisal International Academy staff should be aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

Recognising abuse in students with SEND

Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

Staff should be extra vigilant when working with young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The designated safeguarding lead should liaise regularly with the Head of Inclusion, maintaining a culture of vigilance and being alert to any relevant new information or concerns.

A one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed.

2.2 Designated Senior Lead (DSL) for Student Protection

The role and responsibility of the designated person is to:

- Ensure that proper procedures and policies are in place and are followed with regard to student protection and safeguarding.
- Ensure regular training and updates are provided to all staff/ volunteers
- Ensure that all members of staff and other adults who have contact with students in the school and members of the Operating Committee know the name of the designated senior person and her/his role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated senior person responsible for student protection.
- Act as a source of advice and coordinate action within the school over student protection cases
- Refer cases of suspected abuse or allegations of abuse to the relevant agencies and in adherence to national guidelines/ legislation
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding student protection matters.

- Keep detailed accurate secure written records of referrals / concerns and ensure that these are held in a secure place.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure that this policy is monitored and reviewed in accordance with the review cycle and work with the designated governor regarding this.
- Ensure that parents understand the responsibility placed on the school and staff for student protection by setting out its obligations and publishing our policy on the school website.
- When a student leaves the school, ensure any student protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible separately from the main file, and addressed to the designated person for student protection.

2.2.1 Governance for Student Protection

This is to:

- Ensure that a safeguarding audit is undertaken annually, including review of this policy and practice and actions prioritised, addressed and reviewed as a rolling programme.
- Contact the DSL to monitor the policy and safeguarding in the school.
- Receive training where appropriate.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices (following the Safer Staff Recruitment Policy) are always followed so that only persons suitable to work with students shall be employed in the school or work here in a voluntary capacity.

2.3 Employees of the School Who Have Contact with Students

It is the responsibility of all employees of the school to:

- Be alert to signs of abuse and neglect and report concerns immediately to the designated person.
- Make accurate dated notes of first-hand information received and give to designated person.
- Take further action, e.g., conversation with a student or parent, only as advised by the designated person.

2.4 Visitors Who Have Contact with Students

Visitors are expected to:

- Provide documentation on request to confirm their identity.
- Have supervised access to the student
- Report any concerns immediately to a member of staff who will direct them to the Executive Principal if necessary.

3.0 Safe Recruitment, Selection and Pre-employment Vetting

We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the school who is likely to be perceived by students as a safe and trustworthy adult, including volunteers and staff employed by contractors.

Specifically, the school will carry out the following pre-appointment checks:

- Verify identity from current photographic ID.
- Updated Police Clearance Certificate
- Obtain evidence of suitable checks as appropriate before commencing work in the school.
- Check that a candidate to be employed as a teacher is not subject to a prohibition order.
- Verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities.
- Verify the person's right to work in Qatar.
- Verify professional qualifications as appropriate.

Our recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, checking academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining written professional references and checking previous employment history. It also includes undertaking interviews and providing honest and accurate references when individuals move on. The school keeps an up-to-date record of checks carried out on our staff, volunteers and governors detailing when these checks were completed.

3.1 Visitors to the School with a Professional Role

When individuals make visits to the school, they will be always accompanied by a staff member and are not allowed to have any unsupervised access to students. No examination/medical treatment of any student will be allowed unless the professional has suitable clearance prior to their visit. It is recognised that in emergency situations e.g., when a member of the Emergency Services is called, it may not be possible to confirm their identity before access to the school site is allowed. The Executive Principal will use his/ her professional judgement to effectively manage these situations.

3.2 Visitors to the School in a Voluntary Capacity

We welcome volunteers, such as parents, into school, but at all times we ensure that such volunteers are suitable to work with students. Those who volunteer time with students are not required to undergo checks before they do so unless the volunteer will be working unsupervised. Where the school is satisfied that there is an adequate level of supervision by a suitably checked person (e.g., class teacher), the school will not request a barred list check, but will confirm identity. Volunteers are not able to have unsupervised access to a student unless a disclosure has been obtained.

4.0 Student Protection Procedures

4.1 Reporting Safeguarding or Student Protection Concerns

Members of staff and volunteers must not investigate suspicions. Any concerns should be referred immediately to the DSL. Concerns include action, observation or discussion that makes a member of staff or volunteer feel anxious or worried about the well-being or safety of a student so that he/she believes that a student may be suffering or may be at risk of suffering significant harm.

If the DSL is unavailable, the referral should be made to the DDSL. If neither is available, a team leader should be informed.

Following verbal referrals, a Safeguarding & Incident Concern Form should be completed, and returned as soon as possible to the DSL. The DSL (or person acting in their absence) will decide on the appropriate course of action and inform the person making the referral of the action taken, and outcomes.

If a decision is taken to make a referral to the relevant authorities, this is done by telephone call by the DSL after consultation with the Executive Principal in the first instance. In most cases the school will inform parents if a referral is to be made, and endeavour to seek their agreement for this to happen. The school will not inform parents if they believe such a discussion would place the student at risk of significant harm.

If a decision is made not to make a referral, a 'vulnerable student' file is raised. This will include the Safeguarding & Incident Concern Form and basic information about the student and his/her family including any siblings. Other members of staff are made aware that a vulnerable student file has been raised, as appropriate. Any further discussions, telephone calls or meetings in relation to the student must then be noted in written records.

Depending on the age and capacity of the student to understand the implications, the school will endeavour to ensure that a student's wishes or feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take to protect the individual student, through ensuring that there are systems in place for the student to express their views and give feedback.

The DSL will hold a meeting with relevant parties at least each term to discuss and review all students on the vulnerable students' file. This provides the opportunity for the teachers to monitor and evaluate the impact of any actions that have taken place and agree next steps, which may include a decision to remove a student from this file.

4.2 Management of Allegations against Members of Staff, Allegations of suspected abuse by a member of staff must be made to the DSL. If they are unavailable, the referral should be made to the DDSL or most senior member of staff on site.

Under no circumstances should an accused member of staff be informed by a colleague that an allegation has been made against him/her.

4.3 Reports by Parents

If a parent has a concern about a child other than their own, they are asked to inform the DSL directly. If the school already has concerns about the student, the DSL will decide who needs to be informed when information is obtained in this way.

4.4 Safeguarding Students during Off-Site Activities and on School Journeys

The duty of care means that any leader of a school journey or off-site activity must act in the same manner that a reasonably careful parent would act. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the students in the care of staff are safe and protected from unacceptable risks.

A school journey or off-site activity (e.g., field trip) may present opportunities for student protection matters to arise. Before any such activity is undertaken, staff will be reminded of precautionary measures and actions to be taken in the event of an incident by a senior member of staff.

4.5 Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Al Faisal International Academy respects the right of all members of its community to confidentiality. All school records as well as verbal information given about the student, their families, members of staff or others are treated in strict confidence by members of staff and governors who may become party to it. All such information is only shared with other professionals, including colleagues, on a 'needs to know' basis. The school recognises that sharing information to facilitate integrated working across services is important with the aim of delivering more effective intervention at an earlier stage. It is critical where there is reasonable cause to believe a student may be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm and such concerns may justify sharing information without parental consent.

If an adult becomes aware that a student wishes to disclose or has disclosed information of a sensitive nature, he/she should remind the student that confidentiality will be respected, but that in certain cases information may have to be shared with 'another adult who can help'. It is important that promises are not made 'not to tell anyone' that cannot be kept. Similarly, if personal or sensitive information is given by an adult to a member of staff, the adult should be told that the DSL may have to be informed.

Written records which contain sensitive information, such as those referring a student to outside services, are secured in locked filing cabinets and should not be removed from the school premises except for professional purposes, with express permission of the Executive Principal.

If the information needs to be shared within school, student protection records should be read only in the Executive Principal's office.

The Golden Rules for Information Sharing are listed in Section 7.0 of this Policy.

4.6 Photographing, Videoing and the Use of Mobile Devices

At Al Faisal International Academy, we acknowledge the value of photographs and video images as a tool for learning and as a way of recording student's achievements and promoting success. The need to safeguard the privacy, dignity, safety and wellbeing of students is paramount. Adults need to remain sensitive to any student who appears uncomfortable, may that be for cultural or other reasons, and should recognise the potential for the taking of photographs to raise concerns or lead to misunderstandings. It is **not** appropriate for adults in school to take photographs of students for their personal use on any form of device.

The following safeguards are in place:

- Written permission is sought from parents when their student joins the school, for photographs taken of their child to be used in the school newsletter or on the school website, subject to the condition that names are not published alongside photographs without the parent's express permission.
- There should be no unauthorised use of mobile phones or cameras in the Early Years area/setting.
- Student's full names are not attached to photographs either on the network or on display.
- Digital images/video of students are only stored in password protected areas on the school's computer network and images are deleted when student leave the school – unless an item is specifically required e.g., to demonstrate activities undertaken by Year 6 students on a school trip.
- Specific parental permission is sought if images are taken by other parties and may be used for publicity purposes e.g., in newspapers or brochures.

In particular members of staff and any adults working in the school in any capacity must:

- Abide by the policy that mobile telephones are not to be used whilst supervising student, except as a means of emergency contact.
- Ensure any student photographed understands why the images are being taken.
- Take photographs only on equipment provided or authorised by the school.
- Download images from the camera as soon as possible after the pictures have been taken and then delete them from the camera's memory.
- Report immediately any concerns about any inappropriate or intrusive photographs found.
- Avoid making images in one-to-one situations or which show a single student with no surrounding context or take images in situations that may be construed as being secretive.

We understand that parents like to take photographs or video of their child at school events and this is only acceptable with the understanding that these are for private family use only and not published on the Internet. The school cannot however be held accountable for photos or video footage taken by parents and family members at school functions.

5.0 Design of the School Curriculum

5.1 Personal, Social and Health Education

The value of direct teaching about respect, healthy relationships and keeping oneself safe is recognised as a key feature of the school's proactive and preventative approach to safeguarding. Teaching units around related issues take place with the students. Topics include

such themes as E-Safety issues and other aspects of the SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning) programme.

Students are encouraged to explore and discuss these issues in a safe environment. However, the school also recognises that opportunities to help students develop skills to keep themselves safe occur beyond the planned curriculum. Discussions at Circle Time or after playtimes are often guided by concerns the students raise themselves. Students are supported to find solutions to problems and to develop positive strategies to use in their dealings with others.

The school is committed to ensuring that students are aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. We inform students of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm.

5.2 Risk Assessment and Educational Visits

The curriculum is designed so that safety issues within the subject are discussed, and safe practices explained, such as using equipment properly in PE, ICT and Science. Generic risk assessments are available to staff for these activities and staff are expected to assess and manage risks as part of ongoing practice.

5.3 Internet use and E-Safety

Students are encouraged to always use the Internet in a safe way. On entry to the school and periodically, parents and students are required to sign a Student ICT Acceptable Usage Agreement to ensure that they understand the risks and sanctions relating to misuse of the system in and beyond the school. Members of staff are also required to sign a Staff ICT Appropriate Usage Agreement on taking up employment at Al Faisal International School.

Students are not allowed to use mobile telephones in school. Students are specifically taught about e-safety and issues such as cyber-bullying, messaging and use of chat rooms, using ageappropriate material. The school's computer system has filtered access to the Internet. If students or adults become aware of misuse, either by an adult or a student, the issue must be reported to the DSL, who has overall responsibility for Internet safety with access to all email addresses and passwords provided. The DSL will also address any issues that come to him/her attention that may relate to use outside school, e.g., of online pornography or cyber-bullying where these jeopardise the safety and wellbeing of students. Further details are available in the school's E-Safety Policy.

5.4 Critical Incidents:

AFIA is committed to ensuring that, in the event of an emergency incident affecting the school, an effective response is provided to minimize the impact. The school has a Crisis and Emergency Response Policy in place to manage critical incidents efficiently and safely. A critical incident is any unexpected event that disrupts the school community and exceeds the school's natural capacity to manage it. Examples include severe weather conditions, fires, structural damage, medical epidemics, kidnappings, or violent intrusions.

5.5 Concerns Regarding Student Mental Health

At AFIA We have a comprehensive Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Policy in place, which aligns with our Student Protection Policy and ensures that all students receive appropriate support, care, and safeguarding within a safe and nurturing learning environment. we are committed to safeguarding the mental health and wellbeing of all pupils, staff, and members of our school community. In line with our student protection policy, we strive to create an inclusive and protective environment where every individual feels safe, respected, and supported. We recognise that mental health is essential to students' overall development, safety, and success.

AFIA promotes mental health and emotional wellbeing through a whole-school, preventative approach that embeds protective practices into our curriculum, daily routines, and school culture. We aim to strengthen students' resilience, enhance their emotional awareness, and ensure timely support and early intervention for anyone experiencing mental health concerns. Our focus is to ensure that all students are protected, empowered, and able to thrive in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

6.0 Security of the School Site

Al Faisal International School aims to provide a secure school site but recognises that the site is only as secure as the people who use it. It is recognised that laxity can cause potential problems to safeguarding. At all times, reception staff and security personnel are required to be vigilant and adhere to the procedures governing the access, detailed record-keeping, provision of a Visitor's Pass to be worn for ease of identification and monitoring of visitors to the school.

Therefore, the school ensures that:

- Gates to the playground are locked except at the start and end of each day and in the event of an emergency.
- Access to the school after hours is by prior arrangement only.
- Outside doors are kept locked to prevent intrusion.
- Entrances/exits to the building are monitored by CCTV and the boundary is regularly checked to ensure it inhibits easy access/egress.
- Visitors and volunteers are expected to enter through the main entrance and must sign in at Reception.
- The school community is made aware of the importance of keeping the site secure, i.e., not admitting entry to unknown persons unless authorised to do so and immediately reporting any unknown or suspicious persons on the premises.

6.1 Collection of Students

It is vital that teachers and teaching assistants recognise the parents or named careers (including nannies and drivers) of the students in their class and members of staff seek to do this as soon as possible when taking on a new class. Parents wishing someone else to collect their child must themselves inform the teacher, or the Administration Office, in advance. Any student who has not been collected by **2.15 pm** is taken by a member of staff to the Front Entrance where he/she waits whilst an administrator contacts parents.

A list of such students is kept at the Front Desk so that immediate action can be taken if a student fails to arrive at school without notification of absence having been received. Names of approved drivers will be kept on the system. Students are not allowed to leave the school site alone during school hours and, if collected by an adult, must be signed out at the Front Desk.

In the event of a student being unaccounted for, the Executive Principal, or the most senior member of staff available, and DSL must be informed immediately and members of staff will be organised to search for the missing student. If the student is suspected of leaving the school premises, the Executive Principal/senior member of staff or DSL will inform parents and/or the local police of the circumstances, without delay.

7.0 Golden Rules for Information Sharing

- Be open and honest with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

- Seek advice if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
- Share with consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case.
- Consider safety and well-being. Base your information-sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
- Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared

only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up to date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.

Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

8.0 Safer Recruitment

- The School will comply with the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and our Safer Staff Recruitment Policy.
- At least one member of every appointment panel will have gained accreditation through Safer Recruitment training. At Al Faisal International School we always ensure that at least one panel member has up to date 'Safer Recruitment training'.

9.0 Whistleblowing

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fails to do so.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues. If necessary, they should contact the Deputy director. An allegation against the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead must be reported to school owners.

Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed annually, though any deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding and child protection arrangements will be remedied without delay. The Deputies will undertake an annual review of the school's Child Protection/ safeguarding policies and procedures and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged.

Linked Policies:

- Safer Recruitment Guidelines
- Staff handbook - Code of Conduct
- E-Safety Policy
- Health and safety policy
- Safety and security policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents

KCSIE 2022 (Keeping Children Safe in Education)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2> CIS

Code of Ethics <https://www.cois.org/about-cis/code-of-ethics>

UNCRC Code of Ethics <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

Annex 1: Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The designated safeguarding lead takes responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety). This should be explicit in the role holder's job description. This person have the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. The role of the designated safeguarding lead carries a significant level of responsibility, and they should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources and support they need to carry out the role effectively. Their additional responsibilities include providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, taking part in strategy discussions and interagency meetings, and/or supporting other staff to do so, and to contributing to the assessment of children.

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)

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It is a matter for individual schools as to whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated safeguarding leads. Any deputies should be trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead and the role should be explicit in their job description. Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for child protection, as set out above, remains with the designated safeguarding lead, this lead responsibility should not be delegated.

Availability

During term time the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual schools and colleges, working with the designated safeguarding lead, to define what "available" means and whether in exceptional circumstances availability via phone and or Skype or other such media is acceptable. It is a matter for individual schools and colleges and the designated safeguarding lead to arrange adequate and appropriate cover arrangements for any out of hours/out of term activities.

Manage referrals

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to refer cases:

- of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care;
- to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme;

- where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required; and
- where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required. NPCC - When to call the police should help understand when to consider calling the police and what to expect when working with the police.

Working with others

The designated safeguarding lead is expected to:

- act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff.
- act as a point of contact with the safeguarding partners
- liaise with the headteacher or principal to inform him or her of issues - especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations;
- as required, liaise with the “case manager” (as per Part four) and the local authority designated officer(s) (LADO) for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member.
- liaise with staff (especially teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, senior mental health leads and special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), or the named person with oversight for SEN in a college and Senior Mental Health Leads) on matters of safety and safeguarding and welfare (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a 145 referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children’s needs are considered holistically;
- liaise with the senior mental health lead and, where available, the Mental Health Support Team, where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health;
- promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances;
- work with the headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children’s attendance, engagement and achievement at school.

Information sharing and managing the child protection file

The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that child protection files are kept up to date. Information should be kept confidential and stored securely. It is good practice to keep concerns and referrals in a separate child protection file for each child. Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

They should ensure the file is only accessed by those who need to see it and where the file or content within it is shared, this happens in line with information sharing advice as set out in part one and part two of Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.

Where children leave the school or college (including in year transfers) the designated safeguarding lead should ensure their child protection file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. This should be

transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. Receiving schools and colleges should ensure key staff such as designated safeguarding leads and SENCOs or the named person with oversight for SEN in colleges, are aware as required.

Lack of information about their circumstances can impact on the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes. In addition to the child protection file, the designated safeguarding lead should also consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new school or college in advance of a child leaving to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child and to help the child thrive in the school or college. For example, information that would allow the new school or college to continue supporting children who have had a social worker and been victims of abuse and have that support in place for when the child arrives.

Raising awareness

The designated safeguarding lead should:

- ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the school's or college's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part-time staff;
- ensure the school's or college's child protection policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this;
- ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this; • link with the safeguarding partner arrangements to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements; and,
- help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and school and college leadership staff.

Training, knowledge and skills

The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training should be updated at least every two years. The designated safeguarding lead should undertake Prevent awareness training. Training should provide designated safeguarding leads with a good understanding of their own role, how to identify, understand and respond to specific needs that can increase the vulnerability of children, as well as specific harms that can put children at risk, and the processes, procedures and responsibilities of other agencies, particularly children's social care, so they:

- understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements;
- have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so;
- understand the importance of the role the designated safeguarding lead has in providing information and support to children social care in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes;

- are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers;
- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand and support the school or college with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation
- are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at school;
- can recognise the additional risks that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online;
- obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses; and,
- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them.

In addition to the formal training set out above, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other designated safeguarding leads, or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, and at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Providing support to staff

Training should support the designated safeguarding lead in developing expertise, so they can support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters. This includes specifically to:

- ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and
- support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support.

Understanding the views of children

It is important that children feel heard and understood. Therefore, designated safeguarding leads should be supported in developing knowledge and skills to:

- encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, and in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them; and, understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships which facilitate communication

Holding and sharing information

The critical importance of recording, holding, using, and sharing information effectively is set out in Parts one, two and five of the *Keeping Children Safe in Education* document and therefore the designated safeguarding lead should be equipped to:

- understand the importance of information sharing, both within the school and college, and with other schools and colleges on transfer including in-year and between primary and secondary education, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners;
- understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations,
- be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping.

Annex 2: Child protection definitions and indicators

CHILD PROTECTION; DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

Child protection is part of the safeguarding agenda that focuses on preventing maltreatment and protecting children at risk of neglect or abuse. Under the Children Act 1989, CSSW have a legal duty to investigate and take any action to protect children where there are concerns that they are at risk of suffering **significant harm**, which is defined as:

Neglect: failure to provide basic care to meet the child's physical needs, such as not providing adequate food, clothing or shelter; failure to protect the child from harm or ensure access to medical care and treatment.

Physical abuse: causing physical harm or injury to a child.

Sexual abuse: involving children in sexual activity, or forcing them to witness sexual activity, which includes involving children in looking at or the production of pornography.

Emotional abuse: failure to provide love and warmth that affects the child's emotional development; psychological ill treatment of a child through bullying, intimidation or threats.

Possible indicators of abuse and neglect

Neglect	• Inadequate or inappropriate clothing • Appears underweight and unwell and seems constantly hungry • Failure to thrive physically and appears tired and listless • Dirty or unhygienic appearance • Frequent unexplained absences from school • Lack of parental supervision
Physical abuse	• Any injury such as bruising, bite marks, burns or fractures where the explanation given is inconsistent with the injury • Injuries in unexpected places or that are not typical of normal childhood

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">injuries or accidents• High frequency of injuries |
|--|--|

Sexual abuse	• Parents seem unconcerned or fail to seek adequate medical treatment • Sexual knowledge or behaviour that is unusually explicit or inappropriate for the child's age/stage of development • Sexual risk-taking behaviour including involvement in sexual exploitation/older boyfriend • Continual, inappropriate or excessive masturbation • Physical symptoms such as injuries to genital or anal area or bruising, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy • Unwillingness to undress for sports
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Emotional abuse	• Developmental delay • Attachment difficulties with parents and others • Withdrawal and low self-esteem
Indirect indicators of abuse and neglect	• Sudden changes in behaviour • Withdrawal and low self-esteem • Eating disorders • Aggressive behaviour towards others • Sudden unexplained absences from school • Drug/alcohol misuse • Running away/going missing
Parental attributes	• Misusing drugs and/or alcohol • Physical/mental health or learning difficulties • Domestic violence • Avoiding contact with school and other professionals

First: General Control regulations in accordance with Circular No. (17) for the year 2025 regarding the regulation of the entry of private buses rented by parents into the school premises.

- Schools and kindergartens should issue a permit for private buses rented by students' parents.
- Allowing buses to enter without a permit in exceptional cases (e.g., people with disabilities, emergency health cases).
- The school must allocate a separate and safe route for the entry and exit of these buses when permitted, with direct supervision from guards and supervisors.
- Stopping any vehicle inside pathways or near emergency exits or student entrances is prohibited.
- Compliance with traffic law and traffic safety.
- Not obstructing traffic flow.
- Allocating a safe area for loading and unloading children and students.
- Vehicles must be in good technical condition and not pose any risk to the safety of students and staff, and must comply with the controls for bus safety and security outlined in the Guide for Security, Health and

Second: Organizational Procedures within the School:

- Placing clear directional signs at school entrances and courtyards showing instructions for vehicle entry and exit.
- Appointing a traffic safety supervisor to monitor compliance of drivers and visitors with instructions within the school premises.
- Maintaining a daily log to track the entry and exit of private vehicles, recording the driver's name, license plate number, and reason for entry.
- Activating surveillance systems (security cameras) at entry and exit gates to document vehicle movement.
- In case of violation by drivers of rented buses, the school administration has the right to withdraw the permit and notify parents in writing of non-acceptance of the rented bus.

Annex 3: Example Safeguarding children monitoring/incident form

Name of school:

Name of the Student:

DOB:

Status:

- ☐ Monitoring due to concerns ☐ Subject to child protection plan
☐ Subject to child in need plan ☐ Child looked after

Concerns/risks (observations, comments or disclosure)

Views of child and parents

Next Steps

- ☐ continue monitoring ☐ carry out Early Help Assessment
☐ referral to SPOC ☐ referral to health services
☐ referral for education support services ☐ referral on behalf of parent/carer

Action taken and Outcomes (include dates when action taken and outcomes)

confirmed)

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Printed Name of staff member:

Signed:

Date:

Annex 4: Safeguarding Referral Form

Safeguarding Referral Form

Date: ____ / ____ /20__

Name of child: _____ **Class:** _____

What happened (in your own words)?

Who was it? (position/relation to the student/teacher)

=

Who was present? (witnesses)

Printed Name:

Signed:

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Referred to:_____

Signature: _____