

-The policy takes into account the UAE's new child protection law, June 15, legislation as a vital tool to help protect youngsters from harm.

The law stipulates children's basic rights to live and be safe, and that all competent authorities and concerned bodies have to work together to ensure the protection of children's rights.

Safeguarding and Child Protection:

The school (all the faculty and administrative staff) recognize its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in their care.

In formulating these policies and procedures, the School has taken due regard to the most recent Child Protection legislation in the UAE ; and has established a partnership with the Dubai Community Development Authority Child Protection Centre.

All the students have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, or beliefs. The School recognises its legal duty to work with and in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures.

This responsibility is underpinned by the following aims:

- To protect children from harm (maltreatment);
- To prevent impairment of children's health and development;
- To ensure children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- To take action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

The School addresses their commitment to these aims through:

Prevention

By ensuring all reasonable measures are taken to minimise the risk of harm to children's welfare, including:

- Educating all the students about their rights, commitment and duties in the school and the society where values of justice prevail.
- Ensuring safer recruitment practice.
- Ensuring through training that all staff are aware of and committed to the Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Adopting a supportive, open and accepting attitude towards children so that they feel valued, listened to and respected.
- Establishing a positive and secure environment, in which children can learn and develop.
- Preparing extra-curricular activities about the children right to equip the students with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.
- Providing pastoral support that is accessible and available to all students and ensuring that students know to whom they can talk about their concerns both within and beyond school.

Protection

By ensuring all appropriate actions are taken to address concerns about the welfare of a child or children, working with agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local external agencies, including KHDA, Dubai Community Development Authority, the Child Protection Centre and, where necessary, the Police.

This may include:

- Sharing information about concerns with agencies that need to know and involving children and their parents/carers appropriately
- Monitoring children known or thought to be at risk from harm and contributing to assessments of need and support packages for those children.
- In the cases of repeated domestic abuse, the Dubai Child Protection Centre runs a safe refuge for girls (and boys under the age of 12). The Dubai Child Protection Centre Helpline is 800-988 (24 hour 7 days a week).

Reporting

The School, under inter-agency procedures, will report complaints that raise Child Protection issues.

How to deal with concerns:

Record what was said/seen

Cause of Concern(Physical signs/behaviour disclosure)

Report (to the section supervisor/social worker ➤ Section Vice Principal)

Refer to the School Principal

(In case of emergency refer directly to the School Principal)