

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY (INCLUDING ANTI-BULLYING MEASURES)

AY 2024-25

Policy Statement

The School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment that promotes the well-being of all students. We recognize our responsibility to safeguard children from abuse, harm, and bullying in all its forms. This policy outlines our approach to ensuring that all students are protected, including preventive measures, reporting procedures, and responsive actions. All staff, volunteers, and partners are required to adhere to this policy to create a secure space for every child.

Definitions

- **Child:** Student enrolled in the school.
- **Child Protection:** Actions taken to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect against children.
- **Safeguarding:** A broader approach that includes protecting children from harm, promoting their well-being, and creating a safe environment.
- Abuse: Any form of maltreatment of a child, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, or neglect.
 - o **Physical Abuse:** Inflicting physical injury upon a child.
 - o **Emotional Abuse:** Acts that cause psychological harm or severe emotional distress to a child.
 - Sexual Abuse: Involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not understand, cannot consent to, or that is illegal.
 - Neglect: Failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional, or educational needs.
- **Bullying:** Intentional, repeated behavior that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to another individual. Bullying can be verbal, physical, relational (social exclusion), or cyber (online harassment).
 - o **Verbal Bullying:** Name-calling, insults, threats, or making derogatory comments.
 - o **Physical Bullying:** Hitting, kicking, pushing, or any other form of physical aggression.
 - o **Relational Bullying:** Spreading rumors, social exclusion, or manipulating friendships to harm someone.
 - Cyberbullying: Using electronic devices or social media to harass, threaten, or embarrass someone.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** The staff member responsible for implementing the child protection and safeguarding policy and handling related concerns.

Main Points of the Policy

Zero Tolerance for Abuse and Bullying:

The school has a zero-tolerance policy toward all forms of abuse and bullying. All incidents will be taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and responded to promptly.



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Safeguarding Team:

The school has constituted Safeguarding Team comprising of the following members to make sure compliance of this policy as per SOPs approved.

Principal (Chair) Members

Vice Principal

Coordinator Academics Health & Safety Officer

Section Heads (DSL; Designated Safeguarding Lead of the section concerned)

SEN/Coordinator School Nurse

Psychologist

Social Worker

Staff Responsibilities:

All staff members must report any concerns related to abuse, neglect, or bullying to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and must model respectful behavior and actively promote anti-bullying and safeguarding measures.

Training and Awareness:

The safeguarding team will provide training to all staff on recognizing, preventing, and responding to abuse, bullying, and safeguarding issues and will educate students about bullying, safe behavior, and how to seek help if they feel threatened or unsafe.

Risk Assessment and Prevention:

The Safeguarding team will take proactive measures to identify areas of risk and implement strategies to prevent abuse and bullying incidents. The team will also supervise and monitor high-risk areas within the school to reduce incidents.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

Information regarding safeguarding and child protection will be handled confidentially and shared only on a need-to-know basis in compliance with legal obligations.

Support for Affected Students:

Victims of abuse or bullying will be provided with appropriate support, including counseling and access to external services if needed. The school will support those who have engaged in bullying behavior to address underlying issues and promote positive behavior changes.

Policy Review and Updates:

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and reflects any changes in legislation or school needs.