



CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

RATIONALE

Park House English School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all our employees and volunteers and any contractor in our school to share this commitment. In line with this, we expect everyone to recognise where a student is at risk of, or is actually being harmed, and to do all they can to reduce further risk or harm.

We believe we are in the best position to identify concerns early and to provide or recommend support for students as well as helping to prevent these concerns from escalating.

At Park House, we adhere to the following basic child protection and safeguarding principles:

- A child's welfare is paramount, and each student has the right to be protected from harm and exploitation and to have their welfare safeguarded irrespective of race, religion, ability, gender, or culture.
- All students need to be safe and feel safe in school.
- Every student is entitled to a rich and broad curriculum that helps to equip them to keep themselves safe.
- Every adult in school must have a demonstrable commitment to protecting the students with/for whom we work.
- We work in partnership with parents/carers and/or other professionals to ensure the protection of students.
- Our guiding principle throughout is 'the best interests of the students'.
- All students have the same equal rights to protection, but we recognise that we need to do more for some because of their specific needs/ backgrounds.

AIMS

We will:

- Provide a safe and happy environment to enable students to thrive and learn.
- Outline the systems and processes we all take to ensure that students remain safe at school.
- Raise awareness to all employees of safeguarding/child protection issues and define their roles and responsibilities in reporting possible cases of abuse.
- Identify students who are suffering, or likely to suffer harm.
- Ensure effective communication between all employees on child protection/safeguarding issues.
- Set effective procedures for employees/volunteers or third-party individuals who encounter any issues in relation to child protection/safeguarding to follow.
- Be clear with all parties, including students and their parents/carers, regarding our approach to safeguarding and child protection, through the provision of clear and well communicated policies.



RESPONSIBILITIES

At Park House English School, the Designated Child Safeguarding Leads are:

DSL: Anna Stuart (Deputy Head of Primary)

DDSL: Cheska Tyler (Head of Primary), Anna Grant (Assistant Head of Primary)

DSL: Chris Perry (Head of Secondary)

DDSL: Jack McGuire (Assistant Head), Kerry Walton (Assistant Head)

DDSL: Claire Sharkey (Executive Assistant to the Principal), Rim Saad (MOE Liaison - Arabic speaking)

The person with overall responsibility is the Principal.

Colleagues working for our 3rd party contractor organisations should inform the Principal of any child protection concerns.

The Designated Child Safeguarding Leads are responsible for:

- The welfare of the child is always paramount.
- Confidentiality should be respected as far as is reasonably possible.

Being guided by these principles the Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- Play a key role in ensuring that the school takes action to support any student who may be at risk.
- With the Principal, make sure that all employees, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and child protection.
- Have appropriate training in addition to the basic training that all other employees receive. This includes attending ISP Designated Safeguarding Lead training at least every two years and actively participating in their DSL Regional Networking meetings to ensure they stay updated on safeguarding issues.
- Collate and keep accurate and confidential records of any concerns about children, this should include ensuring robust action plans are implemented at the earliest opportunity which are captured in writing and are reviewed regularly.
- Have a clear understanding of the local expectations around safeguarding, who to contact, what agencies exist and how to contact them.
- Ensure that the entire school community knows who the DSL/ DSL Team is in their setting.
- Be familiar with local regulations, procedures and agencies who can offer support for safeguarding matters.

All employees have the responsibility to report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead any concern they have about the safety of any child in their care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead's responsibility is to make decisions about what to do next and then to take appropriate action.



All employees will:

- Ensure they are familiar with and follow the policy and all other safeguarding related documents e.g., Codes of Conduct, guidance for safe working practice.
- Be subject to safer recruitment processes and checks prior to starting at the school/organisation (unless an action plan/risk assessment is in place to ensure the employee is supervised until all checks are completed, this must be authorised by the Group Director of Health and Safety before employment begins).
- Be alert to signs and indicators of possible abuse.
- Listen to and take seriously the views and concerns of children, knowing what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused, exploited, or neglected.
- Know how to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those who need to be involved, such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a deputy) and children's social care in their area. Employees should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.
- Be able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Record any concerns and report these to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) on the school's concern form.
- Be aware of who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is in the school they are working in and how they can be contacted. **See Appendix 1**
- Follow the procedures outlined in this document when/if concerned about any child.
- Support students, employees or other adults who have concerns, or who are the subject of concerns, to act appropriately and effectively in instigating or cooperating with any subsequent process of investigation.
- Undertake appropriate child protection/safeguarding and safe recruitment training (and refresher training as required by ISP).
- All employees and volunteers need to recognise that if their behaviour inside or outside the workplace breaches the ISP code of conduct and/or the guidance for safe working practice, this may be considered a disciplinary or even criminal matter.

All employees who have occasional or supervised contact with children (including employees from partner and contracted organisations) will:

- Undergo a safeguarding briefing/induction in relation to their role, understand what is required of them if they have concerns and to whom they should report.
- Provide written confirmation to demonstrate that where appropriate, all partner agency staff/contractors have been safely recruited with appropriate checks undertaken and that a safeguarding briefing has been provided to these employees, (appropriate to the role and contact they will have with children), before they commence their role in any ISP school. Where these employees or volunteers are constantly supervised, the recruitment checks may not need to be as rigorous, but it is for the Principal/ Designated Safeguarding Lead to assess this risk, not individual employees or partner organisations themselves.



- Where partners/contractors do not have their own safeguarding or child protection policy, the ISP application notes will be used, and partners/contractors asked to read and follow this. These requirements will be part of any contractual arrangement.
- Follow the guidance laid down in this document at all times.
- Be provided with guidance on appropriate safe working practice.

DEFINITIONS

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge.
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online.
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child Protection:

Child Protection is the core element of safeguarding and is defined as the responsibility to protect children who are suffering or likely to suffer from harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

Note: If the preventative work around safeguarding issues is not appropriate or extensive enough, students identified as being a concern may move to being identified as being at risk of significant harm. Although other factors outside of the schools' control may also influence this, the purpose of the policy is to ensure that at ISP we take whatever measures are possible to avoid this from happening.

PRINCIPLES

We recognise and accept our responsibility to safeguard all students under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). We recognise our obligation to protect our students from harm and in particular, the obligation on us and our regions and schools under the following Articles of the UN convention:

- Article 3: which states that the best interests of children must be the primary concern in decision making about them.
- Article 13: which states that children have the right to get and share information as long as it is not damaging to them or another child.
- Article 14: which states that children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion.
- Article 19: which states children have the right to be protected from hurt and mistreatment, physically and mentally.
- Article 34: which states that Governments should protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Article 35: which states that Governments should take all measures to ensure that children are not abducted, sold or trafficked.
- Article 36: which states that children should be protected from any activity that takes advantage of them or could harm their welfare and development.



- Article 37: which states that no one is allowed to punish children in a cruel or harmful way. 3 Group Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. International Schools Partnership - Public Document All member states of the UN have signed up to the 1989 convention (except for the United States of America) and all the UN articles can be found at the following link: <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

ISP and Park House will ensure that:

- All employees, volunteers and partner agencies in schools are provided with appropriate general safeguarding training on joining the organisation and then undertake annual refreshers. This training will be available through ISP authorised online courses e.g., Safeguarding Essentials on the Learning Hub or in-house training (following the ISP format within the DSL resources), whichever is appropriate, as well as face-to-face events which schools should secure the budget for each year.
- All employees receive safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) updates throughout the school year (for example, via email and e-bulletins) to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard students effectively.
- Relevant documents are made available in a range of relevant languages.
- Employees and volunteers are supported and have the necessary skills to recognise and take appropriate action regarding students who are at risk, or potentially at risk.
 - Those who have the Designated Safeguarding Lead responsibility in schools have appropriate, up to date knowledge and that they access appropriate additional and specialist training (approved by the Group Head of Operational Risk). This will be refreshed every two years.
- All employees and volunteers are subject to a full onboarding, which includes an overview of what to do and who to contact if concerned about a student.
- Appropriate employees are trained in safe recruitment. This safer recruitment training must be renewed annually.
- Training for new starters must be complete before any new starter can have unsupervised contact with students.
- Any student who has or is suffering from any form of harm will receive support. Once agreed with any investigating agency (if involved), students can be offered direct support through school counsellors or external agency input.

FORMS OF ABUSE

All staff should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and/or alcohol misuse, unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education, serious violence, radicalisation and consensual and nonconsensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk.

Child-on-Child Abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Where an allegation is made that one child may have abused another, this will always be taken seriously and dealt with as a safeguarding matter. This type of child-on-child behaviour will not be tolerated. It can happen both inside and outside of school and online. Child-on-child 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 which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm.
- sexual violence*, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault.
- sexual harassment*, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment.
- non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (sexting).
- 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.
- 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.

*Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex, from primary through to secondary stage. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence and harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. All employees must maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'. Any report of child-on-child abuse should be taken seriously it is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

All employees should be aware of the importance of:

- challenging inappropriate behaviours.
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up.
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys"; and,
- challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

Employees must report any incidents of child-on-child abuse via the on the school concern reporting system.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.



Sexting

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked, or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others or sends sexually explicit messages. Sexting may also be referred to by students as 'trading nudes, dirties or pic for pic'. There are many reasons why a student may want to send a naked or semi-naked picture, video, or message to someone else:

- They may find it difficult to say no if somebody asks them for an explicit image, especially if the person asking is persistent or has groomed the child to gain their trust.
- Joining in because they think that 'everyone is doing it'.
- Boosting their self-esteem.
- Flirting with others and testing their sexual identity.
- Exploring their sexual feelings.
- To get attention and connect with new people on social media. Students often do not realize that in creating and sending these images they are potentially committing a criminal act. Ideally, we would not want to deal with these issues as criminal acts. Learning and support can be a more beneficial way of tackling sexting. Employees must report any incident of sexting via the on the school concern reporting system.

Mental Health

Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. School employees, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that employees are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education.

If an employee has a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken by capturing the concern via the school's concern reporting system and speaking to the DSL or a DDSL.

Self-Harm

Self-harm can take a number of physical and/or emotional forms. There are many reasons why children and young people try to hurt themselves. Once they start, it can become a compulsion. This is why it is so important for schools to spot it as soon as possible and do everything possible to help. Self-harm is not usually a suicide attempt or a cry for attention. Instead, it is often a way for young people to release overwhelming emotions and a way of coping. So, whatever the reason, it should be taken seriously.

The exact reasons why children and young people decide to hurt themselves are not always easy to work out. In fact, they might not even know exactly why they do it, but there are links between depression and self-harm. Quite often a child or young person who is self-harming is being bullied, under too much pressure, being emotionally abused, grieving, or having relationship problems with family or friends. The feelings that these issues bring up can include low self-esteem, low confidence, loneliness, sadness, anger, numbness, and lack of control in their lives. Young people will sometimes go to great lengths to cover self-harm scars or injuries and/or they will explain any indications of self-harm as accidents.



There are some common themes that may help employees identify concerns including:

- Physical indicators such as cuts, bruises, burns, bald patches (where hair has been pulled out).
- Emotional indicators such as depression, sudden weight loss, drinking or drug-taking, or unusual eating habits and isolation or withdrawal.

If an employee suspects that a student is self-harming this must be referred to the DSL who will consider the next steps. It is likely that this will require discussion with the student involved and their Parents/Carer's to agree a course of action or referral to an organisation that may be able to support the student.

Radicalisation and Extremism

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). As with other safeguarding risks, employees should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may need help or protection.

We value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or leads to violence and harm of others, goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion. Any freedom of speech which promotes violence against anyone or anything else will not be tolerated.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with through the procedures set out in this document i.e., concerns and signs of FGM must be reported to the DSL. FGM is potentially damaging to children both emotionally and in terms of health issues and is in breach of articles under the UN convention on the rights of the child. It is illegal in 26 countries across Africa and the Middle East, as well as in 33 other countries including the United States of America and the UK. We recognise that this is cultural practice in some countries and not always seen as abusive. While not condoning the practice, we need to be aware of the sensitivities surrounding it and always act in the student's best interests. Signs of FGM must be reported to the DSL via the school concern reporting system.

Forced Marriage (FM)

Forced marriage (FM) is a marriage in which one or both individuals are married without their freely given consent. This coercion can involve physical, emotional, or psychological pressure, and it often involves threats, deception, or abuse. Unlike arranged marriages, where both parties consent to the arrangement set up by families or intermediaries, forced marriages violate the individual's right to choose their partner and make their own decisions about marriage. This is very different to an arranged marriage where both parties give consent.

In 2013, the first United Nations Human Rights Council also adopted a resolution against child and forced marriages. This resolution recognises forced marriage as involving violations of human rights which "prevents individuals from living their lives free from all forms of violence and has adverse consequences on the enjoyment of human rights, such as the right to education."



As with FGM and some other cultural practices, we need to be aware of the cultural sensitivities but always act in the students' best interests. However, the school procedures must be followed in the same way as for any other safeguarding or child protection matter.

Children who are absent from education for prolonged periods and/or repeated occasions.

All employees should be aware that children who are absent for prolonged periods and/or repeated occasions, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and can also be a sign of child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation, 'honour'-based abuse or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Employees should be aware of their school's attendance policy and unauthorised absence and children who have unexplainable and or/persistent absences from education procedures.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

Fabricated and Induced Illness

In fabricated illness the perpetrator (usually a parent or carer) does not directly harm the child but reports to doctors a clinical story which is eventually established to be fabricated. Whereas with induced illness the perpetrator inflicts direct (hands on) harm to the child. This can range from trivial injuries such as pricking the child to add blood to urine, through to suffocation. All schools must have a robust attendance policy to aid the monitoring of child illnesses. When a parent reports that a child has an illness which requires a health plan the school must work in collaboration with the medical practitioner treating the child.

Note: The above is not an exhaustive list of all the potential forms of abuse which employees may have to deal with on occasions. For information, please see "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2024. This is a UK publication, but the types of abuse discussed are valid and can apply to any country around the world. ***All employees are required to read and acknowledge receipt of Part 1 of the document.***



PREVENTITIVE MEASURES AND LINKED POLICIES FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

E-Safety

The growth in electronic media in everyday life and an ever-developing variety of devices create additional risks for children. Risks and dangers of being online include:

- Inappropriate content.
- Deepfakes – images, video or audio.
- Ignoring age restrictions and communicating with unknown adults or other children (which make children vulnerable to bullying and grooming).
- Grooming and sexual abuse.
- Sharing personal information.
- Gambling or running up debts.
- Cyber Bullying.
- Inappropriate use of AI chatrooms / Chatbots.

Cyber bullying is an increasingly common form of bullying behaviour and is most often related to social networks and mobile phones.

We believe the best way to protect our students is to teach awareness and understanding of risk, particularly through personal, social and health education, sex and relationship education or wellness programmes. Each school's curriculum should include appropriate and frequent opportunities to teach children how to recognise when they and others are at risk and equips them with the skills, strategies, and language they need to take appropriate action.

Mobile phones and Camera images

It is our policy that practitioners, teachers, and visitors should not use personal mobile phones to take images of children. Permission to capture images, videos or audio recordings should be sought from the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Principal for the school.

At the beginning of school events parents should be reminded of the restriction of taking photos and videos on school site and that they must not take images of any child other than their own.

Publication of school activities on digital platforms

We are aware that the use of digital platforms and social media can make children particularly vulnerable to 'grooming' and the growing threat of deepfake manipulation where an existing image or video is replaced with a likeness.

Therefore, all employees will ensure that when promoting school activity on these platforms they adhere to the following measures:

- Obtaining written consent from a child and their parents or carers before taking and using a child's image.
- Explaining what images will be used for and what potential risks are associated with sharing images of children.



- Making it clear that if a child or their family withdraw consent for an image to be shared, it may not be possible to delete images that have already been shared or published.
- Changing the names of children whose images are being used in school published material whenever possible (and only using first names if we do need to identify them).
- Never showing screen shots of video conferencing lessons or meetings that show children's faces and full names.
- Only using images of children in appropriate clothing.
- Avoiding full face and body shots of children taking part in activities such as swimming.
- Never publishing personal information about individual children and disguising any identifying information.
- Making sure children, their parents and carers understand how images of children will be securely stored and for how long (including how we will control access to the images and their associated information).
- Reducing the risk of images being copied and used inappropriately by using correct settings on digital platforms.
- Where possible reduce the risk of images being altered by using a digital watermark on them. This can discourage deepfake creators from using content since it makes their efforts more traceable.

Photographs for School publications and marketing

- Photographs of students being used by employees for marketing are only taken on school cameras/devices.
- Images should be saved on a secure server/database and printed copies only used within the school for purposes such as displays, records and learning journals. Images to be used for marketing need to be agreed with parents/carers before use.
- Visitors and parents/carers should be asked not to use mobiles devices within the school except where permission has been granted to capture images of their own child or children.
- All parents/carers must give permission for photographs to be used for publicity purposes and to sign a disclaimer if they do not wish their child's image to be used externally.

Failure of employees to adhere to the above measures to safeguard the children in our care will result in disciplinary action.

Anti-Bullying (Please refer to PHES Anti-Bullying Policy)

Bullying is a safeguarding matter and if left unresolved can become a more serious child protection issue. Employees at every level will take seriously any concerns raised in relation to the bullying of any student. Action will always be taken to investigate the concerns and to prevent repeat incidents or behaviours. Bullying may involve either face-to-face or the misuse of social media or technology. Each school should have its own policy and approach to restorative practices and all our schools will demonstrate a commitment to help resolve specific issues. ISP has a separate Anti-Bullying Policy Statement which must be referred to and fully referenced in relation to the bullying of any student.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

All employees should recognise that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities can mean additional safeguarding challenges. Depending on the nature of a child's special need or disability, additional barriers can exist which make it more difficult to identify and recognise signs of abuse. For example, it is easy to assume that a child's mood, behaviour, or any injury relates to their disability rather than the fact they may be suffering abuse. It should also be recognised that children with disabilities may be disproportionately impacted on by behaviours such as bullying but



they may not show any outward signs. Communication difficulties can make it very difficult for a child to indicate what's happening and, therefore, may make it very difficult to overcome any such barrier. Employees should be extra vigilant and report all concerns, avoiding making assumptions about the causes of any injury or behaviour.

Physical Intervention / Restraint (Please refer to PHES Restraint Policy)

There may be times when adults in schools, during their school duties, have to intervene physically in order to restrain students and prevent them from coming to harm. Such intervention should always be both reasonable and proportionate to the circumstances and be the minimum necessary to resolve the situation. UK government guidance has been issued in relation to the use of reasonable force and can be used as best practice advice. (Schools may wish to add their own local best practice advice and guidance here if available). [Use of reasonable force in schools - GOV.UK](#)

Any such incident to be reported to the Principal soon as possible. The employee is required to document the incident in full giving a description and full account of the incident. Witnesses to the incident should be identified where possible.

Where intervention has been required a senior employee should be asked to debrief the student and allow them to describe the incident from their point of view. Written notes of this conversation should be kept, and the student checked for any injuries.

Parents/carers should always be informed when an intervention has been necessary.

Intimate personal care (Please refer to PHES Intimate Care Policy)

There may be times where students need support with intimate care tasks, each school should have a policy outlining procedures to keep children safe, the policy must include the requirements:

- Two staff are to be present during delivery of personal care.
- No mobile phones or cameras are to be present during delivery of personal care.

Safer Recruitment

All employees who will work in an unsupervised capacity with children or young people will be recruited using safer recruitment procedures (see ISP's safer recruitment policy).

Safer Recruitment involves scrutinising applicants through the interview process and application forms, verifying identity, qualifications and obtaining appropriate references, undertaking criminal background checks from all countries where the applicant has lived or worked in the last 10 years, as well as some additional recruitment checks.

We will keep a central record of all the recruitment checks undertaken on all employees. This record will include details relating to all relevant criminal background checks covering the previous 10 years i.e., date completed and number, home country and international countries criminal records checks or certificates of good conduct, qualifications, prohibition order checks etc. International schools should be asking any potential employee who has lived or worked in the UK to obtain an International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) and not a DBS.



Where information is disclosed as part of the criminal records checking process, whether this is information about cautions, convictions or soft information, any disclosure will lead to a risk assessment being completed prior to appointment. This risk assessment will be signed off by the Regional Head of HR and Regional Managing Director.

LOW LEVEL CONCERNS

Employees are expected to report concerns, no matter how small, about their own behaviour or that of another member of staff, volunteer, supply teacher, contractor or other person working in school.

Its purpose is to help create and embed a culture of openness and trust in which the clear values and expected behaviour set out in both our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and ISP Code of Conduct are lived, monitored, and reinforced.

Definition of a low-level concern

A low-level concern is any concern, no matter how small, even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt', that a person working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that:

- is inconsistent with the ISP Code of Conduct and / or school's Staff Behaviour policy, and
- does not meet a level of concern where staff feel they should report under the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy,

Examples of low-level concerns includes, but is not limited to:

- being overfriendly with children. - having favourites.
- communicating with pupils on social media.
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.

Note: low-level concerns will normally be addressed by the Head of School, Principal or Executive Principal however if this is a repeat of a low-level concern or the concern escalates then it should be referred to the RMD and Regional Head of HR for review.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

An allegation can be made against an employee or volunteer at any point. It is important that any such allegations are treated seriously, and appropriate procedures followed.

An allegation is different to a complaint and can be defined as follows:

- Where someone has behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child.
- Where someone has possibly committed a criminal offence against a child.
- Where someone has behaved in a way towards a child or children that would pose a risk to children.



In the event of an allegation being made against an employee (or a volunteer helper), it will always be investigated by the DSL, DDSL or Principal who should immediately notify the Regional Managing Director of ISP as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

The Regional Manager Director should assess the allegation against the Crisis Communication Policy levels. For Crisis Level potentially level 3, 2 or 1, the RMD informs the Central Crisis Team. If a criminal act has been committed, the matter should be referred to the local authorities where appropriate.

If there is any doubt about the crisis level, the RMD should report to the Central Crisis Team to review and advise (via crisis@ispschools.com).

If it is felt, after these initial consultations, that further enquiries are needed, then the employee may be suspended. Suspension is a neutral act, and in no way implies that the person is guilty of any wrongdoing. It is acknowledged that this would be distressing for the person concerned, and the school will do all it can to balance the interests of any individual with that of the need to keep children safe. **No decision to suspend should be taken without involving the relevant Regional Head of HE and the Group Head of People Operations** as individual countries will have specific legal guidance and processes that will need to be followed.

In cases of allegations against a Principal or school SLT member, it is expected that the Divisional CEO will notify the Central Crisis Management Team.

Employees will reduce the possibility of an allegation being made by ensuring that they are aware of the expectations within the ISP Code of Conduct for employees and volunteers and the guidance for safe working practice, this includes the school Intimate Care policy.

WHISTLE BLOWING

We recognise that we cannot expect children to raise concerns in an environment where adults fail to do so. All employees and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the actions or attitude of colleagues. Appropriate concerns raised for the right reasons are considered to be a protected disclosure and, even if proven to be unfounded, no action will be taken against the whistle-blower.

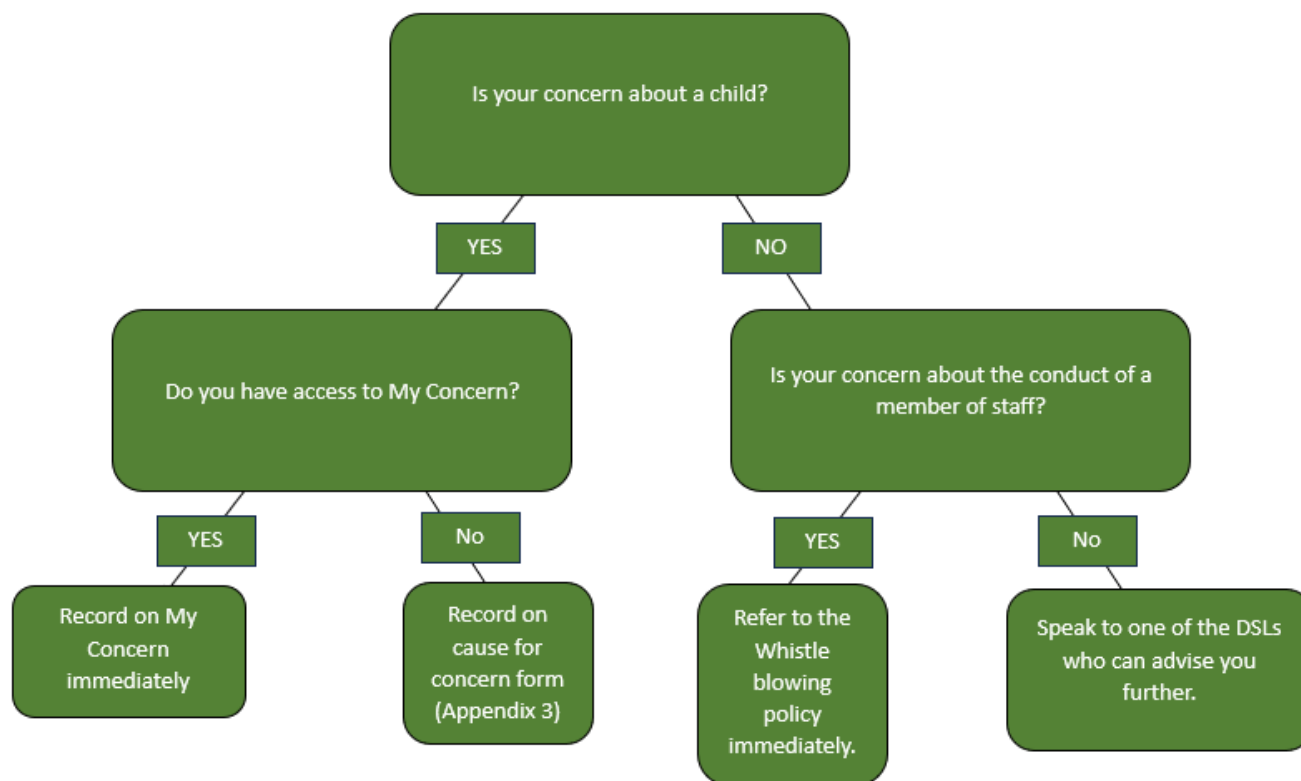
Malicious whistleblowing, however, will be seen as a potential disciplinary matter. **(PLEASE REFER TO PHES WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY)**

PROCEDURES



Procedure 1: Reporting concerns about a child

Concerns flow chart



ANY CONCERN ABOUT A STAFF MEMBER MUST BE REPORTED FOLLOWING THE WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY!

Adults concerned about a student

If an employee suspects that any student in their care may be a victim of abuse or is at risk of abuse or other form of harm, they should not try to investigate and instead should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) about their concerns as soon as possible through My concern or the paper concern sheet for those who do not have access to My Concern.

Employees must disclose any concerns they have about the possibility of a student being abused or placing themselves at risk. It is better to share these concerns, which may later prove to be unfounded, than to hold onto information that may have helped protect a student from actual harm. In many cases a student will not make a direct disclosure, but employees will be concerned because of a physical or emotional indicator. In these circumstances employees should still use the record of concern form and the body map (if appropriate), to make a report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Where any student makes any form of direct disclosure, the guidelines under the heading ‘**Dealing with Disclosure**’ below should be followed.

Dealing with Disclosure

If a child asks to speak to someone in confidence about a problem, no one should ever promise confidentiality if what the child discloses or is likely to disclose relates to abuse being suffered by them or another child. Employees should always give this as a health warning before meeting with the child.

The following guidance is based on five key practices for all employees:

Receive

Where possible always stop and listen to a child who wishes to speak in confidence. We know that children will often find the most inconvenient time to do this, but it is important that you make time for the child, even if this is to say, “I can’t stop now but come and see me in my office at....”. Where possible during any disclosure try to listen, allow silences, and try not to show shock or disbelief.

Reassure

Try to stay calm, make no judgements and empathise with the child. Never make a promise you can’t keep. Give as much reassurance as you can and tell the child what your actions are going to be. Reassure the child that they are doing the right thing by telling you.

React

React to what the child is saying only in as far as you need to for further information. Don’t ask leading questions. Keep questions open such as... “is there anything else you need to tell me?”. Try not to criticise the alleged perpetrator as this may be a family member for whom the child may still have feelings.

Record

Make brief notes about what the child says during the conversation, but if this is not possible, make notes as soon after as you can and certainly within 24 hours. Make sure to record exactly what the child says and not your interpretation of what is said. Record the time, date, and place as well (see the record of concern form).

Report

Where a child makes any disclosure, or where you have concerns for any reason, it is very important that the procedures outlined in this document are followed. A full written/typed account of the concern (ideally using the record of concern



form) should be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible and should include, where relevant, a completed body map.

Where a child has made a disclosure and alleges abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Principal / Head of School in the absence of the DSL), should be informed as soon as possible. The DSL will collate any available evidence by ensuring the notes taken from any witnesses are made available to any investigating body. The DSL will then consider and where necessary, consult on the information available. It is the role of the DSL to make decisions about what action to take next and to make the decision whether to take the matter further within the local legal framework. It is important that a full record of all the information and decisions made are recorded and stored confidentially.

Working in an international context

We recognise the diverse and complex local contexts our schools operate in. Therefore, the following principles are considered when following the framework and procedure for disclosure, reporting and further action:

As an international school we:

- Often reside in cities and countries that offer little external support.
- Recognise the limitations in the areas of child protection.
- Need to assess the quality and skills of counsellors and other support staff in dealing with children who have suffered harm or self-harm, in order to determine the boundaries of their work.
- Need to act in accordance with local legislation as well as the principles and practices outlined in this policy.

Local Safeguarding Agencies / Advice

Local agencies and bodies who can both advise or accept referrals in in the Appendix at the end of this policy.

Record Keeping

All records of child protection concerns, disclosures or allegations should be treated as sensitive information and should be kept together securely and separately from the child's general school records. The information should be shared with all those who need to have it, whether to enable them to take appropriate steps to safeguard the child, or to enable them to carry out their own duties, but it should not be shared more widely than that.

- Child protection records are stored in a secure (i.e., locked) filing cabinet or in MyConcern (its use must be authorised by the Group Head of Operational Risk). Safeguarding information will not be recorded on the schools MIS system. Files are accessible through the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or their deputy) and other senior employees in larger schools to ensure reasonable access.
- Records of any child disclosure should be clearly dated and filed without future amendment.
- Expanded guidance in KCSIE 2025 emphasises maintaining detailed records of concerns, discussions and decisions, including the rationale behind decision making.
- Child protection records should be separate to the general education file, but the child's general school record file should be marked to indicate that a child protection file exists (e.g., red star or similar). All employees who may need to consult a child's school file should be made aware of what the symbol means and who to consult if they see this symbol.
- A child protection file (Electronic or otherwise) should be started for an individual child as



soon as the school is aware of any child protection concerns about that child. This may arise in a number of ways e.g.:

- If an employee raises a concern about the welfare or well-being of a child – this should be recorded in writing (see below for guidance).
- If information is forwarded to the school by a previous school attended by the child.
- If the school is alerted by another agency of child protection concerns about that child.
 - Employees should make a written account of any concern they have regarding the welfare or well-being of a child, using the schools pro forma. This record should be passed as soon as possible to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Concerns, which initially seem trivial, may turn out to be vital pieces of information later. So, it is important to give as much detail as possible. A concern raised may not progress further than a conversation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead but could also potentially lead to matters being dealt with through a legal system. If there hasn't been a specific incident that causes concern, try to be specific about what it is that is making you feel worried.
 - If any information is removed from a file for any reason, a dated note should be placed in the file indicating who has taken it, why and when.
 - The record pro forma should include (see Record of Concern Form):
 - A record of the child's details: name, date of birth, address, and family details.
 - Date and time of the event/concern.
 - The nature of the concern raised.
 - The action taken and by whom: Name and position of the person making the record.

In the case of disclosure, remember the record you make should include:

- As full an account as possible of what the child said (in their own words).
- An account of the questions put to the child.
- Time and place of disclosure.
- Who was present at the time of the disclosure.
- The demeanour of the child, where the child was taken and where returned to at the end of the disclosure.

Confidentiality

We regard all information relating to individual Safeguarding/child protection issues as confidential and should treat it accordingly. Information will be passed on to appropriate persons only at the discretion of the Principal/Designated Safeguarding Lead and this should always be based on the need to know. All records relating to child protection will be secured appropriately

When a pupil leaves or is admitted to PHES



When a pupil leaves Park House, the admissions team will obtain forwarding information, including the contact details of the DSL at the forwarding school. The DSL will then package any safeguarding information safely and securely for the admissions team to send to the pupil's new school.

As part of the admissions process, the admissions team will request the contact information for the DSL from the pupil's previous school. They will email the DSL the Child Protection Handover form for each pupil transferring (See Appendix 4).

Confidentiality:

We abide by the principle that the 'welfare of the child is paramount'. Privacy and confidentiality will be respected where possible but if doing so leaves a child at risk of harm then the child's safety has to come first. It is fine to share information if someone is worried about the child.

Not everyone needs to know when a concern or worry is raised. This respects the child's / family's and/or staff rights to privacy.

Only people who need to know should be told about it. Otherwise, there might be gossip and rumours.

We will always undertake to share our intention to contact the child's parents with the child before doing so.

We will always undertake to share our intention to contact the police in suspected criminal cases with the child's parents unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation.

Tutoring

Some teachers may decide to tutor pupils outside of school hours, on the school site.

Whilst teachers must take responsibility for their own safety should they choose to tutor, it is important to adhere to the school safeguarding procedures at all times.

Teachers must;

- Ensure they have a 'buddy teacher' in school whilst they tutor.
- Move to a central part of school to ensure that they are not alone with a pupil with a closed door.
- Be socially distanced at all times.
- Teacher and pupil to wear masks at all times.
- Follow the safeguarding procedures laid out in this policy.

Safe touch

Safe Touch aims to prevent sexual abuse by helping pupils fully understand safe and healthy relationships.

If an adult needs to touch a pupil such as helping them in a PE lesson or cleaning a wound, it is important to explain at every stage what is happening and why contact is being made. At no point should an adult touch a pupil's intimate area – if they have had an toileting accident the adult should direct the child to clean themselves.

Facilities and Security Staff

POLICY NUMBER: 2
OWNER: ANNA STUART
DATE OF ISSUE/LAST REVIEW: AUGUST 2026
REVIEW DATE: AUGUST 2027



مدرسة المنتزة الانجليزية
PARK HOUSE ENGLISH SCHOOL

All facilities staff will receive awareness, conduct and reporting training. Information will be shared with facilities staff in a language they are confident with. An expectations of conduct document will be read and signed by each member of the team.

When toilets are being cleaned, a yellow sign will be placed outside the door to inform pupils that the toilets are not available, at that time.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1:

Scan the QR code to see all DSLs and DDSLs



Location: Primary building

DSL: Anna Stuart (Deputy Head of Primary)

DDSL: Cheska Tyler (Head of Primary), Anna Grand (Assistant Head of Primary)

Location: Secondary building

DSL: Chris Perry (Head of Secondary)

DDSL: Jack McGuire (Assistant Head), Kerry Walton (Assistant Head)

Location: Administration Offices

DDSL: Claire Sharkey (Executive Assistant to the Principal), Sandy Toroyan (MOE Liaison- Arabic speaking)

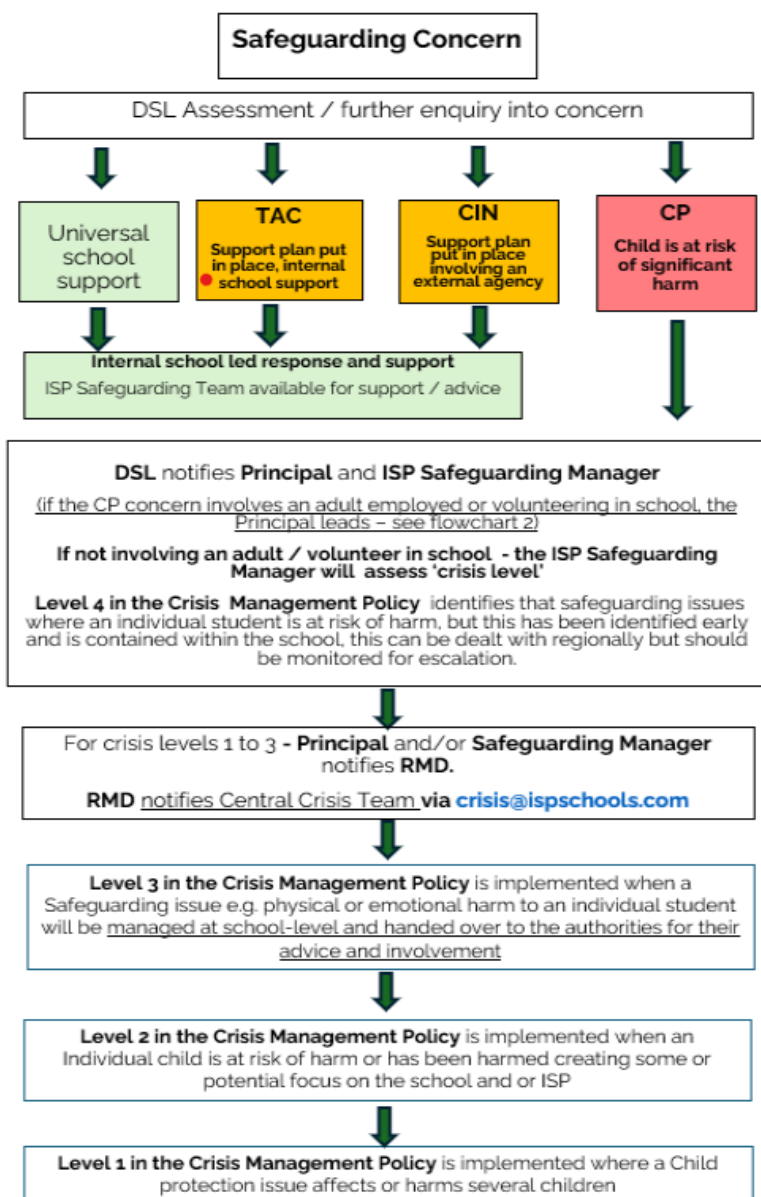


Email: safeguarding@parkhouseschool.com

For concerns in Qatar, Sidra Hospital have a dedicated phone line.

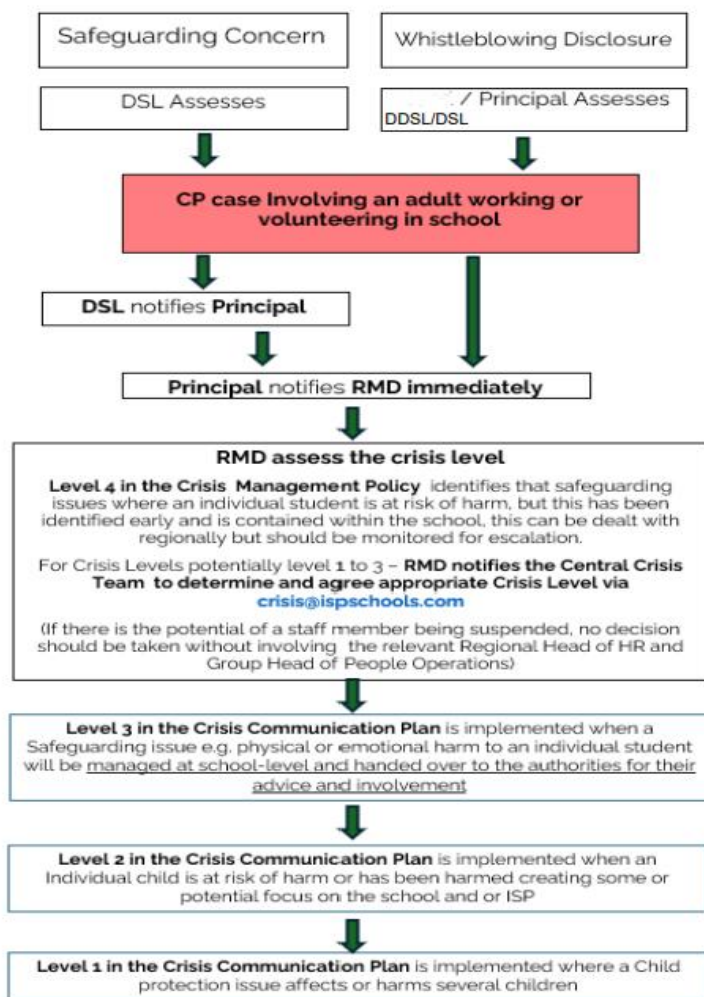
Child Advocacy Helpline (+974 4003 4000) 24/7 on-call services (+974 4003 7227)

Appendix 2: Flowchart 1: Reporting lines for CP cases.





Appendix 3: Flowchart 2: Reporting lines for CP cases involving an adult working or volunteering in a school



Appendix 4 – Cause for Concern Form



Cause for concern forms can be downloaded from the whole school shared drive in the policies folder;

Paper copies can be obtained from the following places;

- Security booth at the school's entrance
- Reception front desk
- Primary Head Office
- Primary Deputy Heads Office
- Secondary Assistant Heads Office



Cause for Concern Reporting Form (to be hand written)
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Pupil Name			
Year Grp	Class	Date	Time
Concerns (Please state the facts not your opinion. Continue on reverse if necessary)			
Reported by	Role		
Signature	Date		
Action to be taken (Completed by Designated Child Protection Officer)			
Signature	Date	Role	



Child Protection Statement

The person mentioned below has been accepted as a pupil at Park House English School. In line with our school's Child Protection (CP) policy, I would be grateful if you could complete this form and return directly to natasha.hilton@parkhouseenglishschool.com Designated Safeguarding Lead

Student Name:

Previous school:

Does this pupil have any Child Protection issues? YES / NO

Please also provide brief details of any serious pastoral concerns (e.g. eating disorders, self-harm etc.)

.....

Signed:

Print Name:

Position:

School Stamp:

If you have answered 'YES' above please send any records in a sealed envelope marked 'Strictly Confidential' for the attention of
Mrs Natasha Hilton,
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Park House English School
990 Meslimesey Road
Dulha
Gater
PO Box: 22215



Child Protection Statement

The person mentioned below has been accepted as a pupil at Park House English School. In line with our school's Child Protection (CP) policy, I would be grateful if you could complete this form and return directly to chris.perry@parkhouseenglishschool.com Designated Safeguarding Lead

Student Name:

Previous school:

Does this pupil have any Child Protection issues? YES / NO

Please also provide brief details of any serious pastoral concerns (e.g. eating disorders, self-harm etc.)

.....

Signed:

Print Name:

Position:

School Stamp:

If you have answered 'YES' above please send any records in a sealed envelope marked 'Strictly Confidential' for the attention of
Mr Chris Perry,
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Park House English School
990 Meslimesey Road
Dulha
Gater
PO Box: 22215

Appendix 5 Visitors Booklet

Visitor Safeguarding Expectations

Professional conduct (behaviour and language) is expected at all times based on mutual respect, good manners, politeness and common courtesies for all members of our community.

Physical violence, verbal abuse and swearing are totally unacceptable and not tolerated.

Mobile phones - should not be used when working around children on the school site. It is unacceptable to photograph, video or voice record students and other members of staff without prior arrangements with the school or parents.

Toilets - Adults in school will use designated staff or visitor toilets and will not use toilets that are for children, even if they are empty.

Safeguarding

Please familiarise yourself with the **Safeguarding Children and Child Protection policy**, a copy of which is available on the school website.

All regular visitors that come into school or undertake school activities (for 4 or more days in a 30-day period) are required to provide a police background check and their QID/Passport.

All visitors with an orange or red lanyard should be accompanied at all times by a member of staff.

IMPORTANT If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact any of the staff below immediately. Please do not leave the site without passing on your concerns. Always ensure that the issue is being dealt with effectively. You can also email: Safeguarding@parkhouseenglishschool.com

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Natasha Hilton - Head of Primary

Chris Perry - Head of Secondary

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Anna Stuart - Deputy Head of Primary

Michael MacDonald - Assistant Head of Secondary

Jack McDermott - Assistant Head of Secondary

Kerry Walton - Assistant Head of Secondary

Claire Sharkey - EA to Principal

Caroline Awaad - MOC Coordinator



Expectations and Standards for all adults visiting Park House English School.

When you arrive at security, you will be issued with a lanyard sticker which must be worn at all times (You will be given a lanyard to wear in exchange for your QID):

- visitors (red, purple, orange or white depending on association with the school)
- staff (green)
- parents (yellow)

Please sign in at the security booth on your arrival and sign out at the security booth on your departure. This also includes lunch and break times.

In the Event of Fire

When the alarm sounds visitors **MUST** evacuate the building and report to the designated **MUSTER POINT** in front of the school.

Expectations of all adults on PHES site

Park House English School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all its staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.

All adults at all times are expected to treat each other with the utmost respect. The school is a professional workplace and every adult on site is entitled to work in an environment that is free from conflict, verbal or written abuse.

All difficulties no matter what the issue, should be resolved in a professional manner. Adults will support each other and help each other when things are difficult.

Adults will use language that is positive and free from any type of prejudice.

All adults will carry out their professional duties in line with the post they are appointed to, with a full awareness of the impact of their actions, at all times working with others to maximise student attainment.

Park House English School creates an atmosphere that is positive, warm and supportive, one that enables the best to be shown in every adult on school site as a model of behaviour to our students.

Basic Principles

The child's welfare is paramount (Children's Act 1989).

"Adults in school are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid conduct which would lead a responsible person to question their motivation or intentions."

Adults in school must work and be seen to work in an open, honest and transparent way.

Adults will discuss or take advice promptly from a member staff about any incident which could cause concern, to ensure that such situations can be handled promptly and sensibly.

A record will be kept by the Designated Safeguarding Lead of any incident regarding safeguarding and of decisions made / further actions agreed, in accordance with school record keeping policy."

Fire Arrangements

All adults on site should obey the following procedures in the event of a fire alarm sounding

- The emergency fire alarm will ring continuously.
- If the alarm sounds, with no exception, proceed in a calm and orderly manner to the assembly area at the front of the school building by the shortest possible route. Please ask for support if it is required.
- On arrival at the assembly area please wait in the area allocated for visitors and make yourself known to staff.
- Follow all instructions given by staff in charge of the assembly area.