



Good Will Children Private School

Student Safeguarding Policy

School Vision and Mission

Vision

Empower students to develop a growth mindset and reach their full potential through collaboration, exploration, and citizenship, so they can impactfully contribute to the global community of a changing world.

Mission:

- GCPS develops the content knowledge, skillset, and ethics to make positive global citizens, true innovators, and passionate leaders.
- GCPS cultivates a deep understanding of Islamic values and the culture of the UAE to develop a character that is identified by integrity, self-discipline, and tolerance.
- By promoting a learning environment of academic excellence and building strong partnerships with families and the wider community, we prepare students to be lifelong learners with high expectations and an appreciation for diversity.
- To provide broad and balanced learning opportunities that enable students to experience rich language acquisition and reach their full potential.

Revised on: January 2025

Next Review Date: January 2027

Distribution List

Principal /Board of Members

School Heads

Academic Staff

Administration Staff

Parents

Policy Framework:

1. Introduction

At Good Will Children Private School, we are committed to the highest standards of safeguarding and student protection. We aim to promote safe practices and protect our students from harm, maltreatment, and exploitation, ensuring their right to develop and grow in a secure environment as per Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights. This policy outlines our priorities and processes for safeguarding and promoting the welfare and security of our students, as well as the procedures to follow when addressing allegations of abuse and maltreatment.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish Good Will Children Private School's commitment to safeguarding and promoting student welfare.
- Define clear lines of accountability within the school to ensure full implementation of safeguarding protocols.
- Outline procedures for identifying and reporting cases or suspected cases of student maltreatment.
- Set security requirements for effective supervision, including the roles of security guards, visiting and departure procedures, and managing security breaches.
- Specify the use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras within the school premises.
- Define training requirements to ensure all staff perform their duties responsibly, effectively, and appropriately to maintain a safe environment for students.

3. Definitions

- **Additional Learning Needs:** Specific support, modifications, or accommodations required by students due to disabilities, special educational needs, or other barriers to learning.
- **At Risk of Harm:** The inability to protect one's own wellbeing.
- **Authorized Personnel:** Individuals authorized by relevant government entities to access the school for specific purposes.
- **Behaviors of Concern:** Any pattern of behavior that interferes with learning, wellbeing, safety, or engagement in positive social interactions.
- **Duty of Care:** The obligation to protect stakeholders' health, safety, and wellbeing while under the school's supervision.
- **Governing Board:** The senior authority of the school responsible for overall governance.
- **In Loco Parentis:** Acting in place of a parent during the absence of the child's legal guardian.
- **Maltreatment:** Abuse (physical, emotional, and sexual), neglect, exploitation, bullying, and cyberbullying of a student.
- **Parent:** The legal guardian or custodian of a child as per Federal Decree Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights.

- **Safeguarding:** The protection of students from harm, ensuring their health, development, and safety.
- **Safeguarding Lead (or Committee):** The individual or group responsible for implementing safeguarding policies and ensuring compliance.
- **Security Breach:** An incident leading to unauthorized access to protected spaces, persons, systems, or information.
- **Staff:** Individuals employed by the school on a contractual basis.
- **Student:** A resident enrolled at Good Will Children Private School.
- **Student Protection:** Measures taken to prevent, protect, and support students from maltreatment.
- **Supervision:** The responsibility of safeguarding and overseeing students' security while under school care.
- **Visitor:** Any temporary visitor to the school, including parents, relatives, inspectors, contractors, and invited guests.
- **Whistleblowing:** Reporting organizational malpractice, such as fraud, corruption, or serious harm risks, occurring at or near the workplace.

4. Safeguarding Supervision

4.1 Duty of Care and In Loco Parentis

All staff have a duty of care toward students and are responsible for their wellbeing, safety, and protection during school supervision. The Principal accepts in loco parentis responsibility for all students during school supervision.

5. School-Based Safeguarding Policy

5.1 Policy Requirements

Good Will Children Private School will develop and implement a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy, which will include the following elements:

- A statement of the school's safeguarding processes, procedures, and goals.
- Practices aligned with ADEK's wellbeing policies to ensure sensitive and professional handling of safeguarding matters.
- A security policy outlining protections against physical and digital security breaches.
- Mechanisms to monitor and measure the effectiveness of safeguarding practices.
- Resources allocated to deliver safeguarding provisions for all students.

5.2 Appointment of a Safeguarding Committee or Lead

Good Will Children Private School has a Safeguarding Committee or Lead to oversee the safeguarding strategy. The responsibilities will include:

- Annually reviewing the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Policy.
- Ensuring the implementation and observance of safeguarding policies and procedures.

- Informing staff, volunteers, and visitors of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Ensuring parents have access to the Safeguarding Policy and supporting documents.
- Developing an induction and training strategy for staff and volunteers on safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensuring compliance with ADEK's Student Protection Policy.

6. Safeguarding Awareness

6.1 Safeguarding Awareness Strategies

Good Will Children Private School will adopt the following safeguarding strategies:

- Provide a safe and caring environment where students can thrive, develop confidence, and voice their ideas and concerns.
- Adhere to a zero-tolerance approach to student maltreatment and ensure easy reporting of any concerns.
- Monitor students at risk of harm, including those with additional learning needs.
- Ensure staff are trained to respond appropriately to safeguarding incidents and support victims.
- Foster a positive and transparent environment where concerns about behavior can be freely raised.
- Be vigilant of student safety in online spaces as per the ADEK Digital Policy.
- Ensure that no school policy harms or jeopardizes student health or wellbeing.
- Provide accessible, judgment-free support and counseling to all students.
- Inform parents of their obligation to enroll their children in school and report any unexplained student withdrawal as a potential maltreatment concern.

7. Safeguarding and the Curriculum

7.1 The School Curriculum

The curriculum will address safeguarding by:

- Focusing on the development of students' self-esteem, self-regulation, and respect for others.
- Teaching students about the risks associated with online behavior and social media usage.
- Assisting students in developing self-protection strategies and responses to peer pressure.
- Educating students on how to be responsible for their own and others' safety.

8. Safeguarding the School's Security

8.1 Implementing a School Security System

Good Will Children Private School will implement a comprehensive security system, including:

- **CCTV Systems:** Installation and maintenance of CCTV cameras to monitor all key areas, ensuring coverage of entrances, public areas, and potential blind spots. Access to CCTV footage will be restricted and monitored by authorized personnel.
- **Security Guards:** Trained and licensed security guards will be stationed at all entry points to maintain safety and verify visitor identities.
- **School Visiting Procedures:** Visitors must sign in, wear access passes, and follow school protocols. Authorized personnel will be granted access as needed.
- **School Departure Procedures:** Verification of parent-authorized methods for student departure, including identity checks for those picking up students.
- **Special Events:** Increased security during events, with clear visitor registration procedures and pre-approved outside service providers.
- **Privacy Safeguarding:** Measures to protect the privacy of the school community in both physical and digital spaces.