



# SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (2024 – 2025)

## POLICY INFORMATION

<b>Policy Name:</b>	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
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<b>Department:</b>	Health and Safety
<b>Approved By:</b>	Principal
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<b>Related Policies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Anti-bullying Policy</li><li>- Behaviour Policy</li><li>- G&amp;T Policy</li><li>- Healthy Food Policy</li><li>- Wellbeing Policy</li><li>- Mental Health Policy</li></ul>

### Approved by:

Ahmad Yahya  
Principal

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# Introduction

Al Yahar Private School believes that all children have a right to be safe, protected from abuse and able to flourish in their learning. Our prime concern is the interests and safety of the child. All staff have a pastoral duty towards all students. YPS strives to create an environment where students feel secure, safe and valued and are listened to and taken seriously. The needs of students are paramount and underpin all our work. Our staff have a central role both in the initial identification of possible abuse and in monitoring the development and progress of students who have been identified as being at risk of significant harm. This policy provides all staff with the necessary guidance for ensuring all students are safe whilst in our care. It also informs parents and guardians how the school will safeguard students. The school endeavors to work openly with parents/guardians whenever this is possible. Our school mission, vision and values promote positive inclusive learning environment.

## School Vision, Mission & Core Values:

**School Vision:** Preparing a distinguished, loyal generation open to the world in an inclusive environment that strengthens identity and fosters tolerance.

**Mission:** We provide a diverse and supportive educational environment where every student is valued. Through the MoE and American curricula, we offer multiple learning pathways that nurture students' strengths and aspirations. We prioritize their wellbeing by building community partnerships that promote growth, confidence, and lifelong learning.

### Core Values (eYAHAR):

Equity: Ensuring every student receives the support and opportunities needed to succeed.

Yearning: Inspiring a passion for knowledge, excellence, and growth.

Accountability: Encourage independent learning and empower students to embrace responsibility.

Honesty: Encouraging integrity, and ethical behavior in all aspects of life.

Acceptance: Fostering an inclusive environment that embraces diversity and respect for all.

Respect: Fostering kindness, empathy, and appreciation for diversity in abilities, thoughts, and backgrounds.



## Purpose of the policy

The purpose of the child protection policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students by creating a secure and supportive environment. At YPS, we establish clear procedures for preventing, identifying, and addressing any potential harm or abuse. This policy reflects the commitment to safeguarding children and promoting their rights. An effective whole-school child protection policy is one which provides clear direction to staff and others about expected behavior when dealing with child protection issues. An effective policy also makes explicit the school's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures. This ensures that child protection concerns, referrals and monitoring may be handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the child. There are three main elements to our child protection policy:

- Prevention through the creation of a positive school atmosphere and the teaching, and support offered to students.

- b) Protection by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns.
- c) Support to students who may have been abused. This policy applies to all students, staff, governors, volunteers, and visitors to YPS School. This school recognizes it is an agent of referral and not of investigation.

## Our Commitment

We are fully committed to promoting children's rights, notably their right to be protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation and to be involved in any decisions that directly affect them. We are committed to developing the children's understanding of their rights and responsibilities as global citizens, in line with The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to which the UAE is a signatory. The term 'children' includes everyone under the age of 18. We at YPS believe that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them. We recognize that the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Wadeema's Law 2016 (UAE) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (UK). As per Wadeema's Law, all residents, including educators, are mandated reporters, meaning they are legally required to report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. This may include notifying the Child Protection Centre of the Ministry of Interior, Abu Dhabi Police, or other relevant bodies depending on the nature and severity of the case. The UAE government has also established a Child Protection Centre under the Ministry of Interior, which operates a dedicated hotline (116 111) for reporting child protection concerns. Given the specific context in the UAE, our school adheres strictly to these local laws and guidelines, ensuring that all child protection concerns are reported promptly and handled in accordance with UAE regulations. In the most extreme cases where the child is at immediate risk, direct referral to the Abu Dhabi Police or the Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Centre is required. Our school's safeguarding procedures are designed to work in harmony with UAE laws, ensuring the protection of all students under our care. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs and other issues. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

## Our Strategy

We believe that safeguarding children is a shared responsibility for all adults, particularly those directly working with them. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is tasked with developing effective school procedures and overseeing the implementation of best practices. We recognize that fostering high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friendships, and open communication with trusted adults is crucial in preventing abuse, aligning with the core principles of our Positive Education ethos. Thus, our school is committed to the following values and practices.

- Establishing and maintaining an environment where students feel safe and secure, where they are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensuring that students know that there are adults within the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty.
- Including activities and opportunities in the curriculum which equip students with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.
- Integrating Social Emotional Learning (SEL) which help students develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.
- Ensuring that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from outside agencies.

At YPS, all staff are kept informed about safeguarding and child protection responsibilities and procedures through induction, briefings, and awareness training. The leadership team at our school ensures that they are aware of the school's policy and the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies. Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure of abuse, an allegation, or suspects that abuse may have occurred must report it immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as shown in the Child Protection Team Poster which is

displayed throughout the school. Each school Staff member has a QR Code on their name tags to report any misconduct.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of their Deputies immediately refers cases of suspected abuse or allegations in accordance with the procedures outlined within this policy. The school always undertakes to share an intention to refer a child with the parents unless to do so could place the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. On these occasions advice will be taken. This policy is available on the school's website for our parents 'awareness.

# Our Child Protection Team

The Designated Safeguarding Team across the school work together to support our students and keep them safe. They also report and discuss different incidents when relevant. The main tasks of the safeguarding and child protection team are to maintain accurate and secure child protection records, marked 'strictly confidential' Monitor attendance and development of children who are at risk, ensuring that all relevant information about a child is disseminated to appropriate staff within the school.

## US Section



MOE Section KG & Cycle 1



MOE Section Cycles 2&3



# Recording and Monitoring

Our school is clear about the need to record any concern held about a child or children within our school, the status of such records and when these records should be passed over to other agencies. Any member of staff receiving a disclosure of abuse or noticing signs or indicators of abuse, must make an accurate record as soon as possible noting what was said or seen, putting the event in context, and giving the date, time, and location. All information should be recorded online via Referral Form, the staff will include the action taken. These file notes are kept in a confidential file/on a secure server, which is separate from other files, and stored in a secure place by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In the same way we keep notes of any student who is being monitored for child protection reasons. All members of staff record any information that they think may contribute to the bigger picture. If a member of staff believes 'something is not quite right' there is a high possibility of truth, and many little concerns may prompt the Designated Senior Leader to monitor the student. If a student transfers from the school, these files will be downloaded and copied and forwarded to the student's new school marked confidential and for the attention of the receiving school's Child Protection Officer – with consent of the student's Parents.

School Staff Members 'Child Protection Referral': <https://forms.gle/LNixYihBLwKpf3aWA>

Parents can communicate school through [childprotection@yps.ae](mailto:childprotection@yps.ae) or by calling: 037816788-037814454

**UAE Support Abu Dhabi Social Support Unit: 02 3333999 MOI CPC Hotline: 116111**

**Figure 1. Safety Concern Referrals in Abu Dhabi Schools**



1. After submitting the [Safety Concern Form](#) on the digital safety concern portal, a copy of the report is automatically shared with FCA, ADEK CPU, and MoI CPC.
2. For cases occurring within schools' supervision, the ADEK CPU will review the information first before referring to the FCA for case management. Note: The ADEK CPU will take the necessary procedures to follow-up on the cases after receiving the report.

Relevant contact details are as follows:

- Abu Dhabi Police: 999
- Family Care Authority (FCA): 800444 [icm@adfca.gov.ae](mailto:icm@adfca.gov.ae)
- MoE Child Protection Unit (CPU): 80085 [cpu@moe.gov.ae](mailto:cpu@moe.gov.ae)
- Safety Concern Portal: <https://daasafetyconcern.abudhabi/>

# Monitoring Students at Risk

Our school understands that children exposed to abuse or violence often struggle to develop self-esteem or perceive the world positively. For such children, the school may serve as the only stable, secure, and reliable aspect of their lives. However, their behavior may still reflect emotional challenges, manifesting as defiance, withdrawal, or difficulty engaging. At YPS we are committed to providing support for these students by:

- Designing wellbeing curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- The school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive, and secure environment and which gives all students and adults a sense of being respected and valued.
- The implementation of the school's behavior management policies.
- A consistent approach agreed by all staff which will endeavor to ensure the student knows that some behavior is unacceptable, but s/he is valued.

- Regular liaison with other professionals and agencies who support the students and their families, including access to the school's counsellors, social workers and child protection team.
- A commitment to develop productive, supportive relationships with parents, whenever it is in the child's best interest to do so.
- The development and support of a responsive and knowledgeable staff group, trained to respond appropriately in child protection situations.
- Recognition that statistically children with behavioral difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse so staff who work in any capacity with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and / or emotional and behavioral problems will need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.
- Recognition that in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug, or alcohol abuse, children may also be vulnerable and in need of support or protection.

## Children Missing Education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full-time education which is suitable for their age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have.

Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered students at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation, or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training) later in life.

Our school maintains effective communication with parents to ensure that all children of compulsory school age receive a safe and suitable education. Parents are responsible for providing full-time education for their children, whether through school enrollment or home education. Some parents may choose to homeschool their children and can withdraw them from school at any time.

To support student attendance, we closely monitor daily records and collaborate with families. If a student repeatedly misses school or accumulates ten or more unexcused absences, we follow established procedures, including reporting the case to local authorities. Additionally, ADEK issues official notices highlighting the serious impact of prolonged absences, which may affect a student's progression to the next grade level.

## Roles and Responsibilities

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect and safeguard them.

### The Role of Academic Staff

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to. Record any concerns over the welfare of children in their class.
- Inform the DSL if any form of Child Abuse is suspected. They in turn will inform relevant parties.
- If appropriate, communicate concerns to other adults working with the child integrate child protection issues into relevant teaching and learning to help children protect themselves.
- Communicate any concerns to the relevant person from the safeguarding team who will inform the Principal, DSL and DDSL if required. Written records of concerns are kept through a secure system and hard copies are kept in a locked filing cabinet, even where there is lack of evidence.
- Respect the confidentiality of all concerned regarding the welfare of children respect children as individuals and engage them in conversations cooperate as required with enquiries from relevant agencies regarding child protection matters.

### The Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Ensure that all of the child protection procedures are followed within the school, and to make appropriate, timely referrals.
- Ensure all staff employed including temporary staff and volunteers within the school are aware of the school's internal procedures, to advice staff and to offer support to those requiring this.
- Maintain that the school has an effective policy, that the guidelines are complied with and to support the

school in this aspect.

- Provide an annual report for detailing any changes to the policy and procedures; training undertaken by all staff and Directors and other relevant issues.

## References:

1. ADEK School Policy on Student Protection  
[STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY.pdf](#)
2. Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties and its amendments. Last accessed on 25/3/2025  
<https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1529/download>
3. United Arab Emirates School Inspection Framework. Last accessed on 25/3/2025  
<https://www.moe.gov.ae/Ar/ImportantLinks/Inspection/PublishingImages/frameworkbooken.pdf>
4. Local Safeguarding Guidelines and Local Child Protection Procedures (where available). A copy of these documents is held by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and published on the school's dashboard.  
<https://u.ae/-/media/Information-and-services/Social-Affairs/En-Federal-law32016childrenrightsEn-Wadeemas-law.ashx?la=en>
5. Working Together to Safeguard Children  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
6. DfE (KCSIE) - Keeping Children Safe in Education - Statutory guidance for schools and Schools  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
7. UKCCIS Guidance: Sexting in schools and colleges, responding to incidents, and safeguarding young people (2024)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1008443/UKCIS\\_sharing\\_nudes\\_and\\_semi\\_nudes\\_advice\\_for\\_education\\_settings\\_Web\\_accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008443/UKCIS_sharing_nudes_and_semi_nudes_advice_for_education_settings_Web_accessible_.pdf)