



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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1. Policy Statement

- At JSS International School, we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We recognise that all children have the right to feel safe, be protected from harm, and have their wellbeing prioritised at all times. Safeguarding and child protection are the responsibility of everyone within the school community.
- This policy reflects our school's duty of care and aligns with national and local safeguarding expectations, including updated guidance on vaping, substance misuse, and harmful physical behaviours.

2. Scope and Application This policy applies to:

- All students enrolled in the school
- All staff (teaching and non-teaching), LSAs, counsellors, leadership
- Volunteers, interns, contractors, and visitors, parents and carers where relevant.
- Safeguarding concerns may arise in school, online, during transport, school trips, extracurricular activities, or any school-related context.

3. Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
- **Child Protection:** Part of safeguarding focused on protecting children from abuse or neglect.
- **Child:** Any student under the age of 18.

4. Aims of the Policy The school aims to;

- Provide a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment
- Prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation, and radicalization
- Promote student wellbeing, resilience, and voice
- Ensure early identification and timely intervention
- Educate students on personal safety, health, and responsible choices

5. Types of Abuse and Harm

The school recognises the following forms of abuse and harm:

- **Physical Abuse:** Deliberate physical injury or harm
- **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent emotional maltreatment
- **Sexual Abuse:** Involving a child in sexual activities
- **Neglect:** Failure to meet basic physical or emotional needs
- **Peer-On-Peer Abuse:** Including bullying, violence, and harmful behaviours
- **Online Abuse:** Cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content

6. Harmful Physical Behaviours

Harmful physical behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting, hitting, kicking, biting, or choking - Carrying or using sharp or dangerous objects
- Self-harm or risky behaviours causing physical injury
- Encouraging others to engage in dangerous acts

6.1. School Response to Harmful Physical Behaviours □ Immediate action to ensure safety of all students

- First aid and medical attention where required
- Incident recording and reporting to safeguarding leads
- Behavioural risk assessment and support planning
- Parent notification and involvement
- Referral to external agencies where necessary

7. Vaping, Smoking, and Substance-Related Safeguarding

JSSIS adopts a zero-tolerance approach to vaping, smoking, and possession or use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or related devices on school premises or during school activities.

7.1. Safeguarding Rationale

Vaping poses significant health risks and may:

- Lead to nicotine addiction
- Impact physical and mental health
- Increase risk-taking behaviour
- Act as a gateway to substance misuse

7.2. Preventive Measures

- School conducts age-appropriate awareness sessions for students
- Curriculum integration on health education and wellbeing - Clear signage indicating vape-free and smoke-free campus
- Staff is given training on identification and response

7.3. Response to Vaping Incidents

- Confiscation of prohibited items
- Recording of the incident as a safeguarding concern
- Parent notification and meeting

- Counselling and educational intervention - Graduated consequences aligned with behavior policy
- Referral to external health services if required

8. Roles and Responsibilities

8.1. Governing Body / School Leadership

- Ensures effective safeguarding policies and procedures
- Allocates resources for training and support
- Monitors safeguarding effectiveness

8.2. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Leads safeguarding practice across the school
- Manages and records concerns confidentially
- Liaises with external agencies
- Provides guidance and support to staff

8.3. All Staff

- Maintains vigilance and act on concerns
- Follows reporting procedures promptly
- Builds safe, trusting relationships with students
- Model appropriate behaviour

9. Reporting and Recording Concerns All safeguarding concerns are:

- Reported immediately to the DSL
- Recorded accurately and confidentially
- Treated with sensitivity and professionalism
- Staff do not promise confidentiality to students

10. Student Voice and Wellbeing

We promote student wellbeing through:

- Access to counselling and pastoral support
- Safe reporting mechanisms
- Wellbeing programmes and assemblies
- Social-emotional learning initiatives

Students are encouraged to speak up and are assured they will be listened to and supported.

11. Safer Recruitment and Staff Conduct

- All staff undergo appropriate background checks
- Code of conduct clearly outlines professional boundaries
- Allegations against staff are managed according to statutory guidance

12. Online Safety

The school recognises online safety as a safeguarding priority and:

- Educates students on digital citizenship
- Monitors school IT systems appropriately
- Responds promptly to online safeguarding concerns

13. Training and Awareness

- Annual safeguarding training for all staff
- Regular updates on emerging risks (including vaping and harmful physical harm trends)
- Induction training is given for new staff

14. Partnership with Parents and External Agencies

The school works collaboratively with parents, carers and health care professionals. Parents are informed of safeguarding expectations through orientation programs.

15. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information is shared on a need-to-know basis, in line with safeguarding principles and legal requirements.

16. Monitoring, Review, and Evaluation

This policy is reviewed annually or as required by new guidance. It is monitored through safeguarding audits and reports and updated in response to emerging safeguarding risks.

17. Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy Addendum

(Contextualised for Current Regional Situation – Dubai)

Purpose

This addendum strengthens existing safeguarding procedures at JSS International School to address increased risks during periods of regional uncertainty, disruption, or distance learning. The school remains committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and protection of all students at all times.

17.1. Contextual Safeguarding Risks

The school acknowledges that changing regional circumstances heighten safeguarding risks, including emotional distress, anxiety, neglect, online vulnerabilities, and exposure to distressing information. These risks are proactively identified and addressed.

17.2. Safeguarding in Remote and Hybrid Learning

All safeguarding expectations apply equally across onsite, remote, and hybrid learning environments.

- Teaching and communication take place only through approved school platforms.

- One-to-one online interactions are avoided unless formally scheduled, recorded, and approved.
- Staff and students maintain appropriate professional conduct, dress, and learning environments during virtual sessions.

17.3. Monitoring, Attendance and Engagement

The school actively monitors student attendance, participation, and engagement.

- Unexplained absence or sudden disengagement triggers immediate follow-up.
- Additional check-ins are conducted for students identified as vulnerable or at risk.

17.4. Student Wellbeing and Emotional Safety

The school prioritises emotional wellbeing as a core safeguarding responsibility.

- Regular wellbeing check-ins and access to counselling support are provided.
- Safe opportunities are created for students to express concerns.
- Exposure to distressing or inappropriate content is minimised within the school environment.

17.5. Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

All staff share responsibility for safeguarding and remain vigilant.

- Staff are trained to recognise signs of distress or harm, including in virtual settings.
- Professional boundaries are maintained at all times.
- Any concern or disclosure is reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

17.6. Parent Partnership and Guidance

The school works closely with parents to support safeguarding at home.

- Parents are guided on online safety, supervision, and recognizing signs of distress.
- Clear communication channels are maintained for reporting concerns or seeking support.

17.7. Safeguarding of Vulnerable Students

Students identified as vulnerable, including Students of Determination and those with prior safeguarding concerns, receive enhanced monitoring and support.

- Regular and proactive contact is maintained.

- External agencies are engaged where necessary.

17.8. Online Safety and Acceptable Use

The school reinforces safe and responsible use of technology.

- All students and staff adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Risks such as cyberbullying, online exploitation, and inappropriate content are actively monitored and addressed.

17.9. Confidentiality and Record Keeping

Safeguarding records are maintained securely and confidentially.

- Information is shared strictly on a need-to-know basis.
- Data protection protocols are followed in all circumstances.

17.10. Emergency Response and Escalation

Clear procedures are in place for responding to safeguarding concerns during disruption.

- Immediate action is taken in response to disclosures or risks.
- Relevant authorities and emergency services in the UAE are contacted where required.
- Up-to-date emergency contact information for all students is maintained.

17.11. Policy Review and Responsiveness

This addendum is reviewed regularly to ensure responsiveness to the evolving situation and alignment with local regulatory expectations.

17.12. Conclusion

At JSSIS, we recognise that periods of uncertainty may increase safeguarding risks and remain committed to maintaining vigilant, responsive, and child-centred safeguarding practices across all learning environments.

18. Conclusion Statement

Safeguarding is central to JSSIS's ethos and daily practice. Through clear procedures, proactive education, and a strong culture of care, the school ensures that every child is protected, supported, and enabled to thrive in a safe learning environment.

