



Dubai English Speaking School

Child Protection Policy

Written by:	J Batts	Reviewed:	Sept 2015
Approved by:	SLT	Next Review:	Sept 2017

Child Protection Policy -September 2015

Dubai English Speaking School acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring that any incidences of neglect or abuse are appropriately addressed.

We believe that the children:

- Should have a positive and enjoyable experience at school
- Should feel safe.

At DESS we will:

- Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the children
- Ensure staff understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding the children
- Enable staff to identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to the children
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and that support is provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.

What happens when a disclosure is made?

- In the first instance staff should not make unilateral decisions on the legitimacy or otherwise of the disclosure; if in any doubt whatsoever, report it. Furthermore, as a default response staff should:
 - Be clear that there can be no secrets kept
 - That the nominated CP officer (Catherine Dando, Headteacher and James Batts, Assistant Headteacher. In the absence of the CP officers the Deputy Headteacher, Jane Shaddick-Brady) will have to be informed
 - Write down what they hear, either as the disclosure is made or immediately afterwards; this should then be signed, dated and submitted to the CP Officers
 - The CP officer will file/keep a record of all incidences referred to him/her
 - When the matter is closed the CP Officer will indicate what the outcome was, though files may remain "open cases" for lengthy periods of time.

One, some, or all the following individuals and agencies may be typically involved to address and resolve any concerns:

- Parents/carers
- The child Protection Centre
- External counselling/mediation services
- Health services
- The police

Policy to be reviewed every 2 years

As an addendum to the CP Policy, here is a list (by no means inexhaustible) of the types of indicators that children who are at risk may present with.

Warning signs of emotional abuse in children

- Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong
- Shows extremes in behaviour (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive)
- A perceived complete lack of attachment to the parent or carer
- Acts either inappropriately adult or, on the other hand, inappropriately infantile (e.g. rocking, thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums)

Warning signs of physical abuse in children

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts.
- Is always watchful and “on alert,” as if waiting for something bad to happen.
- Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.

Warning signs of neglect in children

- Hygiene is consistently bad
- Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to stay in unsafe situations and environments.
- Is frequently late or missing from school.
- Children that move around schools often.

Other things to bear in mind

- These warning signs will probably form part of a bigger picture.
- A child may present with a number of these traits/behaviour patterns
- Your professional judgement and intuition counts for a lot; if you feel uneasy about the way a child is behaving (especially if it is not the norm) then share your disquiet with an appropriate Phase Leader/SLT.

Useful Contact Details

Dubai Foundation For Women and Children
Al Awir - Dubai - United Arab Emirates
Phone: +971 4 606 0300
Email: help@dfwac.ae
Website: www.dfwac.ae, Email: info@dfwac.ae

Child Protection Centre

110 22 St - Dubai - United Arab Emirates
Phone: +971 800 988

Dubai Police

Phone: +971 460 9999
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