



## Purpose

Children are vulnerable to the experience of neglect, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of these types of child maltreatment. The Canadian International School of Abu Dhabi (CIS) fully recognizes its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at our school. Every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment and abuse. This policy outlines the school's safeguarding processes and procedures, in accordance with ADEK and Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 concerning Child Rights (Wadeema's Law).

## Aims

Student protection and safeguarding procedures and measures are in place at CIS to protect student safety and wellbeing in the following ways:

- x Establish a safe and caring environment in which children can learn and develop.
- x Ensure school stakeholders have access to school policies and procedures in support of student protection and wellbeing.
- x Raise awareness of child protection and safeguarding roles and responsibilities with staff and volunteers through training and review of school protocols.
- x Protect students while in the school's care from all acts and omissions constituting physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect, and bullying.
- x Recognize that all school staff are mandated reporters of cases of abuse and/or suspected abuse inside and outside the school.
- x Define duties and responsibilities of Child Protection and Safeguarding Team and school staff for responding to suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect.
- x Identify and refer concerns of abuse or neglect to relevant authorities, as enforced by the UAE Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on Child Rights (Wadeema's Law) and other relevant UAE laws.
- x Provision of effective and responsive physical and digital security measures.

## Safeguarding Responsibilities

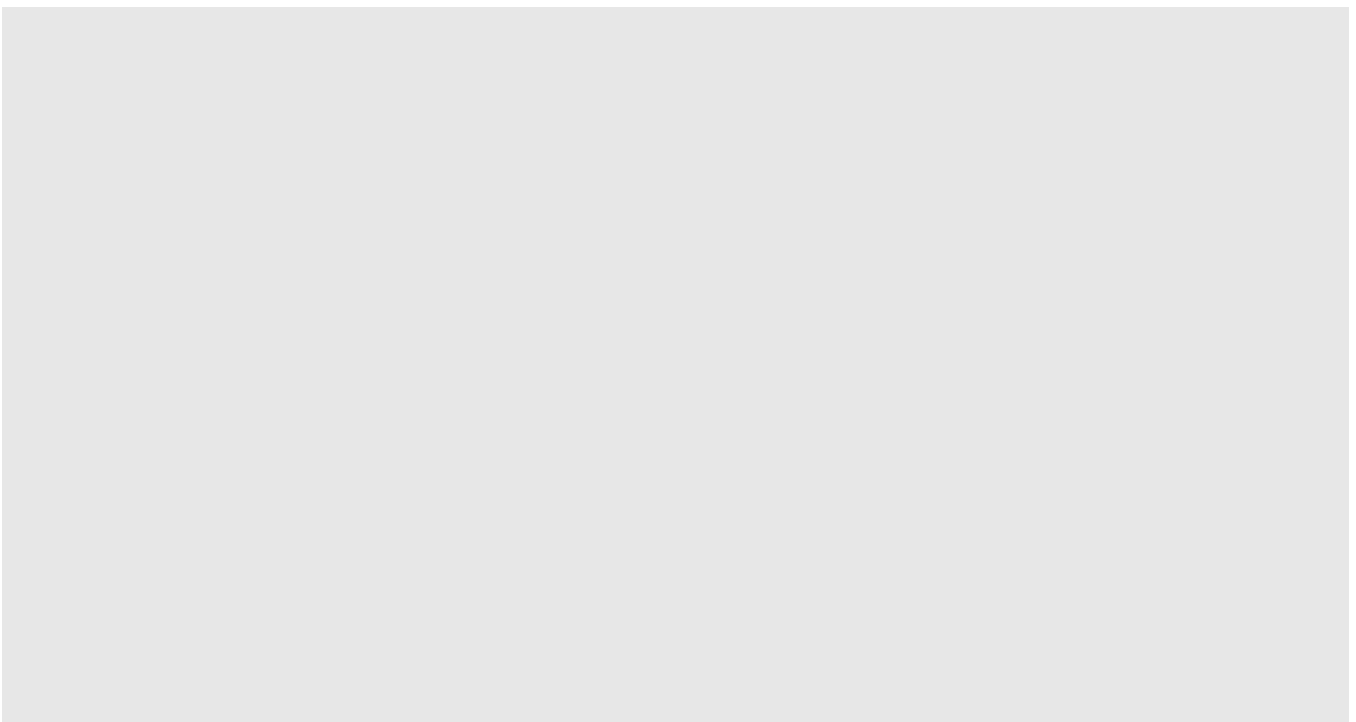
CIS has a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students. The Head of School shall accept *in loco parentis* (in the position of a Parent/Guardian) responsibility for all students while they are under the school's supervision and care.

Safeguarding matters are handled sensitively, professionally, and in accordance with the school's policies and procedures.

While CIS is committed to working openly with parents and guardians whenever possible, it is important to note that the school reserves the right to contact ADEK and child protection authorities without notifying parents, if such an action is deemed to be in the best interests of the child.

### Child Protection Team

All adults at CIS should be aware of the school safeguarding measures to ensure physical and digital safety of students and be aware of the signs of abuse. If an adult identifies that a child may be in an abusive situation, they should record their concerns and promptly report them to the Child Protection Team (CPT). The CPT is a tiered structure of responsive support, led by the Child Protection Coordinator (CPC) with designated Child Protection Officers (CPOs).



The CPT commits to safeguarding the school community in the following ways:

- x Ensure that there is a designated and appropriately trained Child Protection Coordinator (CPC).
- x Provide regular and appropriate training to staff to fulfill their child protection responsibilities.
- x Ensure all staff are fully aware of and understand their responsibilities and obligations under this

concern are transferred to the new school.

- x Engage in annual review of safeguarding policy, practices, and procedures in the CIS school community.

## Security and Digital Safety

As a school we will safeguard the physical and digital safety of the school community through:

- x Provision of 24-hour on-site security guards and CCTV systems, in accordance with the ADEK safeguarding policy and government regulations.
- x Proactive and responsive visitor access practices, parent ID badges, visitor sign-in and access passes, as per ADEK safeguarding policy.
- x Monitored, supervised, and regulated school drop-off and pick up practices.
- x Ongoing safeguarding the personal privacy of staff, student, and parents.
- x Ensure the confidentiality of student's personal data.
- x Secure web browser to protect online use and personal data. Responsive measures to student technology use that are not in line with school policy.
- x



More information can also be found at the following websites:

- x Wadeema's Law: <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1176/download>
- x Family Care Authority: <https://adfca.gov.ae/>
- x Ministry of Interior Child Protection Centre: <https://moi-cpc.ae/ar/default.aspx>
- x UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text>
- x UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Child Friendly Version): <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>

## Appendix 1: Briefing Sheet for Staff

While working in Canadian International School, you have a duty of care towards the students in attendance. This means you should always act in a way consistent with prioritizing and supporting their safety and welfare.

If you have a concern about a student, particularly if you suspect or think they may be at risk of abuse or neglect, it is your responsibility to share that concern with the school's Child Protection Team (CPT). The following members of staff are direct contacts on the CPT:

- x Child Protection Coordinator (CPC): {insert name of CPC}, who can be contacted through email {insert email} or extension {insert extension}.
- x Child Protection Officer (CPO): {insert name of CPO}, who can be contacted through email {insert(ro)-6.7 (6 (1.