

Child Protection Policy:

Protecting children is a crucial responsibility of our international educational institution. Child abuse and neglect are violations of a child's human rights and hinder their education, as well as their physical, emotional, and spiritual development. Any form of abuse, including physical, psychological, or exploitation, as well as the threat of such acts, committed by an individual against another individual, is considered child abuse.

Child Protection Procedures:

- All staff members at GULF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL are required to promptly report any suspected cases of abuse, neglect, or self-harm involving students to the School Principal.
- GIS will annually communicate this policy to parents, applicants, and students through Teams. Additionally, GIS will make every effort to implement hiring practices that prioritize the safety of all children. All staff members will be informed about child protection and safety regulations, including receiving annual safeguarding training or refresher courses.



Child Abuse:

Child abuse occurs when an adult or another child harms a child, and the harm can take various forms, including physical, emotional, neglect, or other types of harm (Day et al., 2008). Abuse can also be indirect if someone is aware that a child is being abused and fails to intervene (Allnock and Miller, 2013).

Definition of Abuse:

According to the World Health Organization, child abuse encompasses "all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, neglect or negligent treatment, or other forms of exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity within the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power."

Identifying, Reporting, and Documenting Suspected Abuse:

Identifying when to report: If an employee has "reasonable cause" or "reasonable suspicion" based on their knowledge of the student or personal experience with children.

Reporting cases of suspected child abuse or neglect: It is mandatory for all GIS faculty/staff to report incidents of suspected abuse, neglect, or self-harm to a School Principal.

Child Protection Team:

The Child Protection Team is responsible for responding to and investigating all suspected and/or reported cases of child abuse. The team consists of the following individuals:

Girls Section:

- The School Principals
- The Academic Directors
- The Vice-Principals
- The School Counselors
- The Floor Monitors

Boys Section:

- The School Principals
- The Academic Directors
- The School Counselors
- The Vice-Principals
- The Floor Monitors

Investigation:

An investigation is initiated and conducted by the School Administration to look into the allegations. Throughout the investigation, all aspects, including verbal conversations and subsequent actions, must be documented in writing. The School Counselor will maintain confidential documentation in a secure location. Once the investigation is concluded, the appropriate authorities will be notified.

Social Media Policy

Gulf International School acknowledges the impact of social media in the lives of its stakeholders and is mindful of the minimum age restrictions set by some platforms.

GIS utilizes social media to share the following types of news and events with our followers:

- Exciting events taking place within our school
- News and upcoming events
- Emergency information

Privacy:

- The school places great importance on privacy and adheres to the following procedures:
- Parents confirm their consent by marking the addendum letter, and the information should be entered in Odo before being uploaded to any of the school's social media platforms.