

# Child Protection Policy



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**This policy includes definitions and the guidelines related to procedures involved in cases of child protection. It also outlines procedures for dealing with such cases should they occur.**

January 2019

**References to Hartland children should be read as Pupils in the Primary phase and Students in the Secondary phase of the school and are interchangeable.**

## **Purpose**

Hartland International Scholl (HIS) is a safe and secure place where children have a fundamental right to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse. Therefore we aim to provide secure, caring environments, highly skilled and aware staff, and a curriculum which promotes self-esteem, nurtures well-being and empowers children to protect themselves.

All staff and volunteers who work alongside children are thoroughly checked to ensure they present no threat to young people. Where allegations are made against adults or other young people, these will always be treated seriously and investigated by the appropriate authority. Where necessary, such investigations may be handed over to agencies outside the school to take action.

The Principal is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff and working with other agencies where appropriate.

The Principal and all other staff who work with children undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively that is kept up to date by refresher training at regular intervals. Temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities.

HIS also recognises that they help children keep safe through the teaching of self-protection skills and encouragement of responsible attitudes to adult life through a life skills or a similar personal, social and health education/citizenship programme.

There are three main elements to our safeguarding and child protection policy;

- a) Prevention through the creation of a happy and positive school atmosphere and the teaching, and pastoral support offered to pupils.
- b) Protection by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are fully trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns.
- c) Support to pupils who may have been abused.

## **Who was consulted?**

In drafting this policy the Leadership Team have consulted with a wide range of best practices and documents globally as well as drawing on key references found in the DfE guidance ' Keeping Children Safe' in Education, July 2015 and the 'Working Together under the Children Act 1989'. In addition, the School has ensured compliance with The Federal Law No 3 of 2016 that came into effect on June 15 2016. Finally, local advisory services such as nurses and doctors who work in partnership with the school have been part of the discussion group.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers working at HIS and visitors.

- The Principal is responsible for ensuring the Child Protection policy and procedures are implemented and monitored in school and is ultimately responsible for all child protection matters, working with all staff.
- The Principal will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out on all applicants for positions in the school in line with best practice for recruitment as advised by The Council of International Schools Global Child Protection Task Force. This will include checking identity, qualifications, professional and character references, health and physical capacity, previous employment history to ensure gaps are accounted for, and criminal records.
- All staff have a responsibility to protect children from abuse. Staff are responsible for following the procedures and guidelines of the Child Protection policy, and for reporting any allegations made or concerns they may have for child safety, to their direct line manager or another senior member of staff. All school personnel are ethically obligated to report any reasonably suspected incident of child abuse to the school management team. (Reports made by telephone or in person shall be followed by a written report within 24 hours). An action plan will be established to ensure immediate safety/protection of the child in need.
- Staff should respond to the child by treating him/her with the utmost sensitivity, listening and recording as accurately as possible what the child says with dates and times, not probing or asking leading questions and not promising to keep secrets. The information should be passed directly to the Principal or in their absence to a member of the SLT.
- School staff will include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life.

**Parents** need to be aware that should any member of staff suspect that a child might have been deliberately harmed or neglected by their parent, the school has a duty to take further professional advice. If thought appropriate due to seriousness of the allegation, the Principal may decide that that authorities are informed. In these extreme cases, the authorities have the right to speak with the child without parental consent when it is in the best interests of the child. They may do so on school premises. However, they cannot take a child off the school premises without the permission of the Principal.

**Staff** must be aware that if a child, or parent, makes a complaint of abuse against a member of staff, the person receiving the complaint must take it seriously and immediately inform the Principal. If the Principal is not at school or unavailable, the matter should be reported to a member of the SLT. Any member of staff who has reason to suspect that a student may have been abused by another member of staff, either at school or elsewhere, must immediately inform the Principal.

If the complaint is regarding the Principal, the most senior member of the SLT should be informed who will in turn inform the Chair of Governors / Owner or Governor for Safeguarding.

If a member of staff is involved in an allegation or incidence, they may be suspended whilst an investigation is conducted. Allegations must be reported by the Principal to the Chair of Governors / Owner or Governor for Safeguarding. A full and fair investigation will be conducted.

The Principal reserves the right to terminate the employment of any employee found to have acted in contradiction to this policy, child protection guidelines and HIS Policies in relation to this. Any termination will be handled in accordance with Child Protection guidelines and the Employment Law.

### **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

The Principal will report matters as they arise to the Chair of Governors and Owner.

### **Date for review**

January 2021

### **Relationship to other guidelines and statements**

- Health and Safety Policy
  - Recruitment Practices
  - Curriculum policies and guidelines
  - Criminal Clearance Practices
  - Regulatory/Government Guidelines

### **Attached reference document**

- School specific process and details as per Power Point Presentation