



المدرسة الأمريكية الخليجية
AMERICAN GULF SCHOOL



Child Protection Policy and Procedure



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1. Our Guiding Principles

IB Mission

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

American Gulf School Vision

We aim to create an environment where everyone aspires to build a peaceful world, to grow through intercultural understanding and respect, and to succeed in the 21st century.

American Gulf School Mission

To provide a safe, friendly learning environment where our learners follow an innovative, evolving 21st-century curriculum that promotes design thinking skills. We will focus on nurturing academic excellence through fun and engaging lessons that will encompass our values in our internationally minded future leaders.



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1. Rationale:

American Gulf school (AGS) fully recognizes its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The purpose of this policy is to provide staff and employees with the guidance they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our schools, respond in cases where abuse or neglect is identified and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care. We recognise that children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so. Parents, carers and other people can harm children either by direct acts or failure to provide proper care or both. Children may suffer neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse or a combination of such types of abuse. All children have a right to be protected from abuse. Whilst the schools will work openly with parents as far as possible, the school reserves the right to contact the police, without notifying parents if this is in the child's best interests.

This policy and guidance have been developed with reference to Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA) Private Schools Policy and Guidance Framework.

2. Aims:

These procedures apply to all staff and employees working within AGS Education. The aim of our procedures is to prevent children from being abused, and to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at this school in the following ways:

- 2.1 Raise awareness of child protection and safeguarding roles and responsibilities with staff and volunteers.
- 2.2 Develop, implement and review procedures in our school that enable all staff and volunteers to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse or neglect.
- 2.3 Support pupils who have been abused in accordance with an agreed child protection plan.
- 2.4 Support children with additional needs.
- 2.5 Ensure the practice of safe recruitment in checking and recording the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.

3. School Director / Board Responsibilities:

The directors and board of AGS Education recognise their responsibility to safeguard children. They will do this by ensuring safeguarding procedures can be followed within the learning environment. The school will therefore:



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- 3.1 Ensure school Principals receive Child Protection training through the Ministry of Interior (MoI) or approved provider to ensure the safeguarding and protection of children is at the centre of their organisational and corporate philosophy.
- 3.2 Provide adequate funding for new Principals or Child Protection Liaison Officers (CPLO) to attend and receive Child Protection Training.
- 3.3 Ensure facilities support Child Protection by facilitating access to separate changing rooms and toilets for males and females, but also for younger and older students when a primary and secondary campus are on the one site.
- 3.4 At all times comply with Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA) requirements for safeguarding equipment (CCTV), supervision and policy.

4. Whole Staff Responsibilities:

AGS Education recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The schools will therefore:

- 4.1 Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- 4.2 Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried about any problems.
- 4.3 Include opportunities in the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.
- 4.4 Follow the procedures set out by the Ministry of Education / SPEA and take account of guidance issued by the Ministry of Interior.
- 4.5 Treat all disclosures with the strictest confidence.
- 4.6 Ensure that parents understand the responsibility placed on the school and its staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in an annual school report and that parents are offered a copy of this policy on request.
- 4.7 Notify the Ministry of Interior Child Protection Centre of any cases of alleged or suspected child abuse.
- 4.8 Inform parents of any concerns, and provide them with opportunities to change the situation, where this does not place the child at greater risk.
- 4.9 Notify the school social worker or Child Protection Liaison Officer if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days.
- 4.10 Develop effective links with local police and with the MOI Child Protection Centre.
- 4.11 Liaise with other agencies that support pupils.
- 4.12 Ensure that there is a senior designated person/Child Protection Liaison Officer (CPLO), and deputy Child protection Liaison Officer (DCPLO) appointed, wherever possible someone who holds a current pastoral role in the school.
- 4.13 Ensure that all records pertaining to CP concerns are treated with the highest level of confidentiality and maintained in a secure location.



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5. Principal, Child Protection Liaison Officer and Deputy CPLO Responsibilities

They will:

- 5.1 Ensure that the school principals and staff are fully aware of and understand their responsibilities and obligations under this policy.
- 5.2 Ensure they have received appropriate training and attend training every 2 years.
- 5.3 Ensure every member of staff and all volunteers know the name of the designated person CPLO, their role and how to contact them.
- 5.4 Ensure CPLO & Deputy CPLO are clearly named and contact details provided in school CP policies and communications within the school.
- 5.5 Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated person CPLO.
- 5.6 Ensure that whole school training occurs annually so that every member of staff and volunteers can fulfil their child protection responsibilities effectively and to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Education (training every 2 years at a minimum).
- 5.7 Keep written records of child protection concerns that are kept securely and separately from the main pupil file and use these records to assess the likelihood of risk.
- 5.8 Ensure that copies of child protection records and/or records of concern are transferred accordingly (separate from pupil files) when a child leaves the school.
- 5.9 Ensure that where external companies provide services, that staff (including but not exclusive to: Music services, bus drivers/ monitors, cleaners, maintenance, security, canteen staff) provide evidence of having received Child Protection training – or access it through the school. They will be required to sign a contractor CP agreement (see appendixes)
- 5.10 For staff that experience a disclosure, ensure they receive any necessary debriefing or counselling support.

6. Responsibilities of Adults within School Communities

All adults are required to be aware of and alert to the signs of abuse.

- 6.1 If an adult identifies that a child may be in an abusive situation, they should record their concerns and report them to the CPLO as soon as practical.
- 6.2 If a child discloses allegations of abuse to an adult, they will follow the procedures attached to this policy.
- 6.3 If the disclosure is an allegation against a member of staff, they will follow the allegations procedures attached to this policy.

It is important that all members of staff, including visiting staff both paid and unpaid, should be aware and alert to possible outward signs of abuse or neglect. There are four categories of abuse: emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. These signs may include



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one or more of the following:

- » An injury that is not typical of the bumps and scrapes associated with everyday activities.
- » An injury that is not consistent with any explanation given.
- » Frequent injuries even when apparently reasonable explanations are given.
- » Sudden changes in behaviour, performance or attitude.
- » Anxiety or low self-esteem.
- » Knowledge of sexual matters beyond what would normally be expected, or sexual behaviour that is unusually explicit or inappropriate to the pupil's age.
- » Disclosure of an experience in which the pupil may have been significantly harmed.

Training in Child Protection All Teaching Staff including peripatetic teachers and Learning Support Staff, Bus Monitors, Bus Drivers and Administration Staff receive annual training on the signs and symptoms of abuse and the reporting procedures within AGS Education. This will be repeated on a yearly basis.

The Designated Person for Child Protection (Child Protection Officer CPO), Deputy CPO, have received enhanced CPO training to support their role.

7. AGS will Educate and Encourage Pupils to Keep Safe by:

- » The content of the curriculum
- » A school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued
- » A "Rights, Respect and Responsibility" agenda
- » The creation of a culture which helps children to feel safe and able to talk freely about their concerns, believing that they will be listened to and valued.
- » Displaying clearly around the school's key members of staff, to whom students can speak to if they want to.

8. Data Confidentiality

Case reports and student data are strictly confidential. All staff must maintain privacy and confidentiality of the students, subject to alleged abuse or neglect, the alleged perpetrator and the person reporting the case. Data should only be shared with authorized individuals the Ministry of Interior – Child Protection Centre and Social Support Centre.



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9. Our policy is informed by:

United Arab Emirates Federal Penal Code (3) of 1987

In relation to child abuse and neglect the above states that, “a person who fails to report a criminal offense is liable to prosecution”. Additional details are provided in the following articles from Penal Code (3) of 1987: Physical Abuse: 343 & 342, 341, 340, 339, 338, 337, 336. Sexual Abuse: 362 & 364, 363, 358, 356, 354 Emotional Abuse: 374 & 373, 372, 352, 351 Neglect: 350 & 349, 348.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis or as required.

Approved by AGS Academic Leadership Team

APPENDIX 1.1

Child Protection Procedures & Guidance

The prime concern at all stages must be the interests and safety of the child. Where there is conflict of interests between the child and parent, the interests of the child must be paramount.

These procedures should be read in conjunction with the flow chart (Annex 2).

Suspected Abuse:

If a member of staff suspects abuse e.g. through physical injury etc. they must:

1. Record their concerns
2. Report it to the CPLO / Principal immediately
3. Consider if there is a requirement for immediate medical intervention and if so assistance must be called for
4. Make an accurate record (which may be used in any subsequent court proceedings) as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the occurrence, of all that has happened, including details of:
 - » Dates and times of their observations
 - » Dates and times of any discussions they were involved in
 - » Any injuries • Explanations given by the child / adult
 - » What action was taken.

The records must be signed and dated by the author. Note that it is not appropriate to take photographs as evidence of injury – record them on a body map if necessary.



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Reported Abuse

Following a report of concerns from a member of staff, the Principal/CPLO must:

1. Decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for suspecting child abuse in which case a referral must be made to the Social Support Centre (MOI Child Protection Centre) via Telephone: 700-800 and make a clear statement of:
 - » The known facts
 - » Any suspicions or allegations
 - » Whether or not there has been any contact with the child's family
2. If the CPLO feels unsure about whether a referral is necessary, they can phone MOI Child Protection Centre to discuss concerns and obtain advice. Doing so will not constitute a child abuse referral, however, may help to clarify a situation.
3. If there is no clear risk of harm, the CPLO will either actively monitor the situation or seek advice from the MOI Child Protection Centre.
4. The CPLO must confirm any referrals in writing to MOI Child Protection Centre, within 24 hours, including the actions that have been taken. The written referral should be made using the referral form attached to this document. This referral can be made by email at childprotectioncpu@gove.ae.
5. If a child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the CPLO should also notify the MOI Child Protection Centre of the occurrence and what action has been taken. The CPLO should seek advice from MOI Child Protection Centre about informing the parents. Awaiting MOI CPC guidance, a decision may be taken to retain a child and their siblings at school. Normally the school should try to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with the family and where possible to seek their agreement before making a referral to MOI Child Protection Centre. However, in accordance with this, it should only be done when it will not place the child at increased risk. The child's views should also be considered.
6. Where there are doubts or reservations about involving the child's family, the CPLO should clarify with MOI Child Protection Centre or the local police, depending on who the CP concern has been reported, whether the parents should be told about the referral and, if so, when and by whom. This is important in cases where the police may need to conduct a criminal investigation. Where appropriate, the CPLO should help the parents understand that a referral is in the interests of the child and that the school will be involved in the police investigation.



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7. When a pupil is in need of urgent medical attention and there is suspicion of abuse, the CPLO or Principal should take the child to the Accident and Emergency Unit at the nearest hospital, having first notified MOI Child Protection Centre. The CPLO should be provided a mobile contact number so that they can remain in contact with the MOI CP Unit. The CPLO should seek advice about what action the MOI Child Protection Centre will take and about informing the parents, remembering that parents should normally be informed that a child requires urgent hospital attention. If the suspected abuse is sexual then the medical examination should be delayed until MOI Child Protection Centre and/or the police can liaise with the hospital, unless the needs of the child are such that medical attention is the priority. If a decision is made not to inform the parents there must be a responsible adult with the child at all times, whether from the school, MOI Child Protection Centre or the police.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

'Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. The government of the UAE also views this procedure as illegal and has actively participated with the UK authorities to prevent girls being flown to parts of the world where this is still enforced. Any suspected cases of FGM should be referred to the CPO following the same process outlined in this policy.'

Radicalization

Protecting children from the risk of radicalization should be seen as part of the Academies with wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalization, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalized.' (KCSIE July 2015). The government of the UAE is aware that this may be a threat to pupils within UAE schools and encourages schools to ensure pupils are protected from the influence of radicalization. Any suspected cases of radicalization should be referred to in the same way as any other suspected cases of abuse.

Dealing with allegations against staff and volunteers

Report any concerns about the conduct of any member of staff or volunteer to the Principal as soon as possible and within 24 hours. Concerns will be treated in the strictest confidence so that information can be provided freely and without fear of victimization, and in a way that protects the rights of staff and children. If an allegation is made against the Principal, the concerns need to be raised with AGS Campus director who will then raise with SPEA as soon as possible and within 24 hours. In either event the CPLO should



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contact the MOI Child Protection Centre on Telephone: 700-800 and make a report of the incident and / follow up with police.

Protection for the CPLO

The CPLO should be afforded legal protection as they act in the best interest of the child and under the direction of MOI Child Protection Centre. The CPLO acts in the role of child advocate until such time as they are relieved of their duties by a MOI CP Official or the parents. Student Advocacy requires the CPLO to support and enable young people to express their views and concerns, access information and services, and defend and promote their rights and responsibilities. They should not be subject to any harassment in the course of fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities.

AGS acknowledges the significant responsibility and potential emotional toll of the role of CPLO. As part of our duty of care to staff, CPLO may access external psychological debriefing (supervision) opportunities to ensure their wellbeing is maintained. Accessible on a termly basis, and more frequently should an occasion arise, CPLO will be able to share confidentially and access professional support and guidance.

Behaviors Contrary to the Values and Culture of the UAE

On occasion, staff witness or become aware of students engaging in behavior that is contrary to the values, culture or laws of the UAE. This addendum seeks to provide guidance to staff as to expectations when these situations occur and articulates the reporting process.

The behaviors of concern include those which occur both within the school and outside, and include (but are not limited to) students engaging in experimentation with alcohol, drugs, and solvents, risk taking behavior including driving under age, sexual grooming, inappropriate physical contact between students and students engaging in sexual activity (be it with the same or opposite gender).

When staff observe or become aware of students engaging in any of these types of behaviors they are required to inform the principal and Child Protection Officer. CPO and principal will decide the most appropriate course of action, considering the nature and context of the behaviors.

Head of Schools may be informed to ensure heightened supervision, and a support plan or risk management plan may be put in place. Parents will likely be informed in line with the school behaviour policy, and parent meetings held to ensure students are safe and school staff protected from claims of non-disclosure.



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APPENDIX 1.2

Child Protection Disclosure

Student Name			
Grade			
Name of person reporting the concern			
Date		Time	

Details of Concern			

Outcome of Action			
Further actions required, by whom and when			
Review Date			

Signature		Date	
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APPENDIX 1.3

Child Volunteering Information

If a child volunteers for information about abuse to a member of staff, it may be done obliquely, rather than directly, e.g. through play, drawings etc. Children will talk about their concerns and problems to people they feel they can trust. The person a child talks to will not necessarily be a senior member of staff. The role of the member of staff or volunteer to hear this is to listen but not undertake an investigation of the potential abuse. That is the role of child protection agencies. Legal action against a perpetrator can be seriously damaged by any suggestion that the child's words have been influenced in any way by the person they told.

When a child confides in you:

Things you should do: Give the child undivided attention. Show concern, support and warmth but don't show emotions, distress or negative reactions. Be reassuring – (you can say 'that must have been sad/hard for you'; 'it's right to tell someone because you need help'.) Ask if the child has told his/her parents if the alleged abuse is outside the home or the other parent if one parent is implicated Rather than directly questioning the child, just listen and be supportive It may be appropriate to check that the child is indicating abuse or neglect Check if the child is hurt or might be in need of medical attention Deal with the allegation in such a way that the child does not have to repeat the information to different people within the school; It is important to know if an incident has happened recently and whom the child is saying has hurt her/him Make careful records of what was said, put the date and time when the child spoke to you, put the location and names of the people who were present, as well as what was said, using child's own language and colloquialisms. Then sign it, and hand your record to the CPLO straight away Keep a copy of your notes and keep possession of any writing or drawing the child has made as this may be important evidence at a later time. Look after yourself by seeking some support

Things you should not do: You must not promise a child complete confidentiality – you should explain that you may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep them or other children safe Malign the character of the alleged perpetrator Jump to conclusions Ask leading questions Ask for lots of details about the alleged event(s) Speculate or accuse anybody yourself Make promises you can't keep Pre-empt or prejudice an investigation by leading the child with closed questions.



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Questioning Skills

To avoid leading questions when clarifying what a child has said, you should use open questions with a child rather than closed questions.

The following table gives some examples of both.

Closed Questions	Open Questions
Do	Tell me
Did Would Who Could	Explain to me
Can	Describe to me
Would	When
Who	Where
Could	How

Avoid using 'Why'? This can confuse a child and lead to feelings of guilt.

Initial Responses to children:

When a child has made a disclosure, it can be a relief for them, however they are likely to feel vulnerable and confused. Here are some examples of what can be said to a child;

Do say:

'Thank you for telling me' 'I am sorry it has happened to you' 'I am going to help you, and will tell you what I am going to do' 'It should not have happened' 'You are not to blame'

Do not say:

'It will be all right soon' Anything which you will not be able to fulfil It is anybody's fault



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APPENDIX 1.4 Safe Working Practice

It is essential that all staff and volunteers working in schools are aware of how to pass on any concerns about other members of staff or volunteers and be conscious of how they should conduct themselves to minimize the risk of finding themselves as the subject of any child protection processes.

In dealing with allegations or concerns against an adult in the school all staff, governors and volunteers should:

Report any concerns about the conduct of any member of staff or volunteer to the Principal as soon as possible and within 24 hours

If an allegation is made against the Principal, the concerns need to be raised with the AGS Campus Director who refers to the local Education Authority (SPEA) as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

In either event the Principal/DoE should contact the MOI Child Protection Centre on Telephone: 700-800 Safe Professional Culture

All staff and volunteers should;

Work in an open and transparent way, avoiding any actions that would lead a reasonable person to question their motivation and/or intentions. Dress appropriately for your role. Avoid unnecessary physical contact with children. If physical contact is made:

- ▶ ensure you are aware of and understand the rules concerning physical restraint
- ▶ where it is essential for educational or safety reasons, gain pupil's permission for that contact wherever possible
- ▶ to remove a pupil from a dangerous situation or an object from a pupil to prevent either harm to themselves or others, then this should be recorded on the correct form and reported to the Principal
- ▶ it should not be secretive, even if accidental contact was made, it should be reported.

Understand their position of power and influence over children and not misuse it in any way. This includes but is not limited to:

- ▶ Accepting regular gifts from children
- ▶ Giving personal gifts to children
- ▶ Recognise their influence and not engage in activities out of school that might compromise their position within school,

Not establish or seek to establish social contact with pupils outside of school. This



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includes;

- » communication with pupils in inappropriate ways, including personal e-mails and mobile telephones
- » passing your home address, phone number, e-mail address or other personal details to pupils/children
- » the transportation of pupils in your own vehicle without prior management approval
- » contact through social networking sites.

All staff and volunteers should;

- » Only use e-mail contact with pupils via the school's system.
- » Be careful about recording images of children and do this only when it is an approved educational activity. This can only be done when parents have given their express permission.
- » Ensure that areas of the curriculum that may involve sexually explicit information are taught in accordance with school policies.
- » Allow children to change clothes with levels of respect and privacy appropriate to their age, gender, culture and circumstances.
- » Avoid working in one-to-one situations or conferring special attention on one child unless this is part of an agreed school plan or policy.
- » Only arrange to meet with pupils in closed rooms when senior staff have been made aware of this in advance and given their approval.
- » Not access inappropriate material via the internet
- » Not allow boundaries to become blurred and unsafe in more informal settings such as trips out, out of school activities etc.
- » Never use a physical punishment of any kind.
- » Not attribute touch to their teaching style.
- » Avoid volunteering to house children overnight.

Informing the Principal

All staff and volunteers should inform the principal if;

- » There are any incidents or issues that might lead to concerns being raised about your conduct towards a child. There is any suggestion a pupil may be infatuated with you or taking an above normal interest in you.
- » If a member of staff is the subject of concerns or allegations of a child protection nature they may wish to seek legal advice.



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APPENDIX 1.5

Intimate Care - Guidance on Toileting Needs in Schools and Early Years Settings

Introduction

Most children are appropriately toilet trained and able to manage their own needs competently before they start school. This policy will apply to pupils who, for whatever reason, require toilet training or special arrangements with toileting in KG or other education settings.

This guide:

- » Identifies the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers.
- » Sets out the principles of good practice • Provides practical guidance for preschools and schools
- » Clarifies the implications of the UAE Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination laws.
- » Sets guidance for all children including those with special educational needs and disabilities
- » Emphasizes the employer's duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff.
- » Provides Child Protection advice
- » Raises awareness of the need to protect the dignity of the child.

Where document refers to child/children, this includes children and young people of pre-school and school age.

Partnership with Parents/carers

Open and supportive communication with parents (including carers) is fundamental to planning for and meeting the child's toileting needs effectively and sensitively. Many parents may feel anxious that their child is not able to use the toilet independently and may have already experienced some difficulties with toilet training and/or experienced negative attitudes from others towards the issue. For some children their toileting needs may be relatively short term and related to initial toilet training, whereas others may require a long-term toileting programme. Parents will need to feel confident that the setting is able to support their child's toileting needs and is positive about doing so and should be encouraged to be open about and able to discuss any concerns in this area.

Partnership with Children and Young People

The active involvement of the child in their toileting programme is vital to make sure they have ownership and understanding of their needs.



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Principles of Good Practice:

All children have an educational entitlement irrespective of their difficulties with toileting.

- » Children or young people who need assistance with toilet training or special toileting arrangements must be treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity.
- » Some children who cannot achieve continence and independent toileting will require high levels of assistance.
- » Educational establishments should ensure that they work in partnership with parents and carers in planning for toileting needs and effective toilet training, acknowledging that continence and independent toileting may not be achieved by some children.
- » It is important to adopt consistent approaches at home and at school.
- » The setting, in partnership with parents/carers, child and any other professionals involved, should make and review care plans, working towards achieving maximum independence of the child with toileting.
- » The setting, supported by Principals and senior leaders, should positively address issues raised by toileting needs in a constructive and problem-solving way.
- » Staff should be provided with access to appropriate resources and facilities and be supported by clear plans, policy guidelines and training. All staff supporting pupils with toileting difficulties must receive appropriate information and specific training as required.
- » Principals and senior leaders should be aware of, and ensure implementation of, appropriate health and safety procedures and risk assessments.
- » It is important to alert the Head of Inclusion, school nurse and/or counsellor if any school attendance difficulties develop because of toileting concerns. Staff should be provided with access to appropriate resources and facilities and be supported by clear plans, policy guidelines and training. All staff supporting pupils with toileting difficulties must receive appropriate information and specific training as required.
- » Principals and senior leaders should be aware of, and ensure implementation of, appropriate health and safety procedures and risk assessments.
- » It is important to alert the Head of Inclusion, school nurse and/or counsellor if any school attendance difficulties develop because of toileting concerns.

Definition of Disability

Special protection should be provided for children who have a physical, sensory or mental impairment or medical condition that has an adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Anyone with a named condition that affects aspects of personal development must not be discriminated against. It is also unacceptable to refuse admission to other children who are delayed in achieving continence. Delayed continence is not necessarily linked with learning difficulties. However, children and young people with global developmental delay, which may not have been identified by the time they enter nursery or school, are likely to be late achieving independence with toileting; some may never achieve independence with toileting.





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Attending preschool settings and starting school

Children with toileting difficulties should be admitted into pre-schools and into nursery and KG classes with their friends in the same way as any other child. At this stage it is not possible to assume that failure to achieve independence with toileting is in itself an indication of special educational needs. However, there are some children who enter KG with special educational needs and/or medical conditions which indicate the need for special toileting arrangements or toileting training.

Education providers have an obligation to meet the needs of children and young people with delayed personal development in the same way as they would meet the individual needs of children with delayed language, or any other kind of delayed development. Children should not be excluded from normal pre-school or school activities solely because of incontinence.

All issues of continence and toileting needs should be dealt with on an individual basis, and settings are expected to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of each child.

Before the child begins schooling it is important to:

- » Gather information from parents, child and any professionals involved.
- » Establish effective partnership with parents/carers, child and any professionals involved.
- » Focus on health and safety implications and determine whether a risk assessment is required.
- » Decide, in consultation with parents/carers, whether you need further advice from Health Services.
- » Arrange for any specialist advice, training, resources to be in place before the child begins attendance.
- » Agree a plan with parents/carers and child and make a written note of your agreement.
- » Make sure that all staff are informed and clear about their responsibilities.

It is important for all parties to monitor and review the plan regularly to ensure it is still appropriate and meeting the changing needs of the child.

It is reasonable to discuss the level of independence with toileting before a child starts school. Should a child not be continent before starting school, it is important to agree a plan which will work towards maximum independence and support the child's attendance in the educational setting.

Good Practice Guidance

Each child and situation is of course unique. However, teachers may find the following guidance helpful in deciding what "reasonable steps" should be taken to support pupils who require toilet training.





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It is anticipated that existing staff will volunteer to support pupils with toilet training or special toileting arrangements in school and preschool. Where incontinence is caused by an underlying impairment, it is a necessary reasonable adjustment for staff to carry out personal care. When recruiting new staff it is important that duties relating to personal care are specified in the contract of employment (see link to Role Profiles below). Managers should ensure that staff carrying out such procedures feel confident and supported by relevant training and protocols to ensure the dignity of the pupil and protection of the staff.

If the child or young person is not able to use the toilet independently on entry, schools have found a variation on the following procedures usually addresses the difficulty.

Gather as much information as possible from the parents/carers and child. How have they tried to introduce toilet training at home? What happens at home? Has the child any regular routines or daily patterns which could inform the routine set up by the school? Have the parents/carers noticed any difficulties or phobias which the school should be aware of? Can the parents/carers suggest a strategy or procedure for dealing with the problem?

An appropriate toileting programme will need to be discussed and agreed so that the child, parents/carers and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. The plan must have regular monitoring and review arrangements. The plan should consider choosing which adults should be involved in toileting care. Schools and preschool settings should give a written copy of the programme to the parents/carers.

Clothes should be easy for the child to pull up and down. Wherever possible it is better to train the child with appropriate clothing rather than continuing to rely on the nappy/pad or training pants.

No child should be left wet or dirty for a parent/carer to change later.

It is not reasonable to expect parents or carers to be on emergency standby to change children during the school day.

Staff should ask parents/carers to provide the school with a couple of appropriate changes of pants/trousers etc in case of accidents.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to deal with wet/soiled clothing. Staff should liaise accordingly and make the necessary arrangements.

Organise that a member of staff familiar with the child is given the responsibility of taking the child to the toilet at fixed, appropriate intervals throughout the morning/day. Careful observations and discussions with the child may identify when the child "needs to go".



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Ensure that the routine established in school is strictly maintained from the start and try hard to avoid accidents. If necessary, shorten the time between visits to the toilet so that the child gets into the habit of being dry.

Children may be anxious and preoccupied by toilet difficulties but usually respond to praise, encouragement and confidence building. It is important to promote self-esteem in other areas.

Drinking water easily accessible for all children and encourage them to have "little and often" rather than in huge amounts at a time.

Reminders to use the toilet should be discreet and staff may consider the use of signs, pictures or code words.

Make little fuss over accidents that do occur and ensure that they are dealt with swiftly, appropriately, sympathetically and in a calm, lowkey way. Give extra attention when they have made the effort to go to the toilet independently.

After a period of training, it may be sufficient to remind the child to go to the toilet on their own. Be positive and patient and praise the child for effort.

It is important to anticipate toileting needs for these pupils before planning off site activities. Children should not be excluded from off-site activities because of their toileting needs.

Where difficulties persist, there may be more complex issues to consider and further guidance and support may be needed from other professionals. It is important to discuss your continuing concerns with parents/carers and seek their agreement before involving further professional guidance and support.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities

In addition to the good practice guidance described above the following considerations may apply:

In consultation with parents, Health service staff will provide any relevant medical information, training and advice.

It may be appropriate to consult a specialist adviser for children with Physical Disabilities who can provide guidance and assistance with risk assessments.

Specialist equipment may be accessible through a specialist advisor.



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Health and Safety considerations

Principals have a duty to safeguard the Health and Safety of pupils and staff. Schools and other settings registered to provide education will already have hygiene or infection control policies as part of their health and safety policy and will follow these when managing a child with toileting needs. Ensure all known allergies are considered when planning and carrying out each child's toileting programme.

Child Protection concerns

The normal process of changing underwear, nappy/pad should not raise child protection concerns, and there are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available to supervise the nappy changing process to ensure that abuse does not take place. However, as is always recommended, it would be advisable to have another staff member present should the child be in a secondary setting or have special educational needs. The school nurse may be an appropriate support staff member in such cases.

Appendix 1.6 Grooming

Guidance on addressing issues of Grooming

Introduction

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation. Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse.

In the school context, children may be groomed by older students in the school, by adults within the school, or by online contacts.

How does grooming happen?

Groomers will hide their true intentions and may spend a long time gaining a child or young person's trust. They may also try to gain the trust of the whole family so they can be alone with the child.

Groomers do this by:

- » Pretending to be someone they are not, for example saying they are the same age on-line
- » Offering advice or understanding
- » Buying gifts, either real or virtual
- » Giving the child attention



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- » Using their professional position or reputation
- » Taking them on trips, outings, or holidays.

Using secrets and intimidation to control children

Once they have established trust, groomers will exploit the relationship by isolating the child from friends or family and making the child feel dependent on them. They will use any means of power or control to make a child believe they have no choice but to do what they want.

Groomers may introduce 'secrets' as a way to control or frighten the child. Sometimes they will blackmail the child, or make them feel ashamed or guilty, to stop them telling anyone about the abuse.

Online grooming

Groomers can use social media sites, instant messaging apps including teen dating apps, or online gaming platforms to connect with a young person or child.

They can spend time learning about a young person's interests from their online profiles and then use this knowledge to help them build up a relationship.

It's easy for groomers to hide their identity online - they may pretend to be a child and then chat and become 'friends' with the children they are targeting.

Groomers may look for:

- » usernames or comments that are flirtatious or have a sexual meaning
- » public comments that suggest a child has low self-esteem or is vulnerable.

Groomers don't always target a particular child. Sometimes they will send messages to hundreds of young people and wait to see who responds.

Groomers no longer need to meet children in real life to abuse them. Increasingly, groomers are sexually exploiting their victims by persuading them to take part in online sexual activity.

Grooming signs, symptoms and effects

Children may:

- » be very secretive, including about what they are doing online
- » have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- » go to unusual places to meet friends
- » have new things such as clothes or mobile phones that they can't or won't explain
- » have access to drugs and alcohol.
- » In older children, signs of grooming can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behaviour, but you may notice unexplained changes in behaviour or personality, or inappropriate sexual behavior for their age.



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Things you may notice

If you're worried that a child is being abused, watch out for any unusual behavior.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| » Withdrawn | » Suddenly behaves differently |
| » Anxious | » Clingy |
| » Depressed | » Aggressive |
| » Problems sleeping | » Eating disorders |
| » wets the bed | » Soils clothes |
| » Takes risks | » Misses school |
| » Changes in eating habits | |
| » obsessive behavior nightmares | |
| » Drugs | » Alcohol |
| » Self-harm | » Thoughts about suicide |

Good Practice Guidance

In the school setting it is important that all staff be watchful for patterns of behaviour, relationships or interactions which may potentially be acts of grooming.

Young adults may not speak out because they are:

- » ashamed
- » feeling guilty
- » unaware that they're being abused
- » believe they are in a relationship with a 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'.

Grooming, by its nature, is a precursor to child abuse.

As such it is reportable if a child or young adult is at risk of harm or abuse.

Active Strategies for Safeguarding our students

Parents:

Advice to parents to help support their children by

Helping them choose an age appropriate, non-gender specific nickname to use online

Support for students:

Age-appropriate e-safety advice for pupils to help them understand that not everyone is who they say they are online and that personal details are precious and should not be shared.



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Appendix 1.7 Social Media

Guidance on abusive behaviour using social media

Social media and networking websites allow users to connect and communicate with others. People use social media and networking to keep in touch with friends, family, colleagues, and to meet new people they haven't met in the real world.

Social media is also a means by which child abusers make contact with young people online or young people themselves using the sites to groom, bully and target others.

It is important that schools teach young people how to protect themselves and behave responsibly when using social networking sites. Adult members of the school community need to be watchful for any behavior or interactions which suggest a child protection risk and report to Child Protection Liaison Officer accordingly.

Creating a personal profile

Personal profile pages enable people of all ages to create a webpage about themselves – and they are popular with young people and adults alike. The page can include information such as name, contact details, address and location, birthday, photo, likes and interests and also allows users to 'post' or upload comments about themselves onto the page.

Educate students to recognize that:

- » They must not post personal details such as home address, email address, mobile number, school name etc. and that this information is private to them and not for sharing.
- » what gets put on the Internet can live forever (even if you later remove a picture, it may have been copied by someone else and posted elsewhere).
- » their password should not be easily guessed and not to be shared – even with their friends.

Setting Privacy Settings

Privacy settings allow people to adjust who has access to what information. Be aware that privacy settings can change frequently. As new applications are added to social networking sites, so are new privacy settings.

Educate students to recognize that:

- » they should set the 'protection' levels to their highest, allowing only friends to see their profile and information.
- » personal information is private and should be restricted to people they know and trust.
- » privacy settings can change so you should check them regularly.

Making 'Friends'

Once a profile page has been created, the user can connect to people they know who also have a profile on the website. This 'connection' will mean that they can now see each other's personal



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information, photos and send each other messages.

Educate students to recognize that:

- » friends should be people that they know.
- » they should never meet a person they do not know but have met online.

Sending Messages

Social networking sites allow users to talk to each other using an internal email or message system. This means that they can communicate privately rather than on the main profile pages. Some social networking sites also allow you to chat instantly or in real time with someone else.

Educate students to recognize that:

- » receiving messages from people they do not know – or messages that make them feel uncomfortable or distressed should be reported to a parent or teacher.
- » online messaging is just like writing a letter to someone and that once it is sent, you cannot take it back.

Posting pictures

Profile pages allow the user to add a main picture of themselves, and on most sites, you can create albums and add hundreds of pictures. Sometimes, in the privacy settings you can control who can see your pictures – everyone, friends of friends or just friends.

Educate students to recognize that:

- » once something is posted onto the Internet, it could be there forever.
- » privacy settings should be set so that they are set to the highest level for pictures.
- » pictures of a compromising nature should never be posted or shared.

Good Practice Guidance

Child protection, in terms of social media and cyberbullying, requires schools and parents to work as partners and act swiftly to address any reported or suspected acts.

Schools can:

- » change the culture around incident reporting so that both youth and their parents feel comfortable engaging school personnel.
- » take special efforts to address the disproportionate level of cyberbullying that occurs among girls and youth with disabilities.
- » teach youth about appropriate online behaviours and encouraging digital citizenship.

Active Strategies for Safeguarding our students

Parents:

- » Advice to parents to help support their children
- » Share further sources of information and support via presentations and school websites



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Support for students:

Age-appropriate e-safety advice for pupils to help them understand key messages:

- » not everyone is who they say they are online
- » personal details are precious and should not be shared
- » Once you post, you can't take it back
- » THINK before you post
- » Where to get help
- » AUP outlining expectations for use of online connectivity in school

Appendix 1.8

Peer – Peer Abuse

Peer-on-peer abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate).

Peer-on-peer abuse can take various forms, including:

serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), relationship abuse, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, youth and serious youth violence, harmful sexual behavior, and/or gender-based violence.

We take a contextual safeguarding approach, which:

- » is an approach to safeguarding children that recognizes their experiences of significant harm in extra-familial contexts, and seeks to include these contexts within prevention, identification, assessment and intervention safeguarding activities;
- » recognizes that as children enter adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time outside of the home in public environments (including on the internet) within which they may experience abuse; and

Consider interventions to change the systems or social conditions of the environments in which abuse has occurred. For example, rather than moving a child from a school, professionals could work with the school leadership and student body to challenge harmful, gendered school cultures, thus improving the pre-existing school environment.

AGS does not use the term 'victim' and/or 'perpetrator'. This is because we take a safeguarding approach to all individuals involved in allegations of or concerns about peer-on-peer abuse, including those who are alleged to have been abused and those who are alleged to have abused their peers, in addition to any sanctioning work that may also be



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required for the latter. Research has shown that many children who are present with harmful behavior towards others, in the context of peer-on-peer abuse, are themselves vulnerable and may have been victimised by peers, parents or adults in the community prior to their abuse of peers.

In terms of sexualized behaviors, the NSPCC explains “children's sexual behaviors exist on a wide continuum, from normal and developmentally expected to highly abnormal and abusive. [Staff] should recognize the importance of distinguishing between problematic and abusive sexual behavior... As both problematic and abusive sexual behaviors are developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage, a useful umbrella term is harmful sexual behaviors or HSB.” This term has been adopted widely in the field and is used throughout the NSPCC’s and Research in Practice’s Harmful Sexual Behavior Framework, as well as this policy. For the purpose of the NSPCC’s and Research in Practice’s Harmful Sexual Behavior Framework, and as adopted in this policy, harmful sexual behaviors are defined as “Sexual behaviors expressed by children...that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards another child...or adult.”

Simon Hackett has proposed the following continuum model to demonstrate the range of sexual behaviors presented by children, which may be helpful when seeking to understand a [pupil's/student's] sexual behavior and deciding how to respond to it.

Normal	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
» Developmentally expected » Socially acceptable » Consensual, mutual, reciprocal » Shared decision making	» Single instances of inappropriate sexual behaviour » Socially acceptable behaviour within peer group » Context for behaviour may be inappropriate » Generally consensual and reciprocal	» Problematic and concerning behaviour » Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected » No overt elements of victimisation » Consent issues may be unclear » May lack reciprocity or equal power » May include levels of compulsivity	» Victimising intent or outcome » Includes misuse of power » Coercion and force to ensure compliance » Intrusive » Informed consent lacking or not able to be freely given » May include elements of expressive violence	» Physically violent sexual abuse » Highly intrusive » Instrumental violence which is psychologically and/or sexually arousing to the child responsible for the behaviour » Sadism



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Appendix 2

استمارة المخاوف وحالات الاشتباه

تفاصيل حول الطفل				
		الاسم بالكامل	: تاريخ الميلاد	
الجنسية			النوع الاجتماعي	ذكر انثى
لغة الطفل			رقم الهوية الامارتية	
الامارة			السكن	
المدرسة			الصف والشعبة	
: رقم الطالب			هل الطالب من ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة	
مدير المدرسة			رقم التواصل	
الاختصاصي الاجتماعي المرشد الأكاديمي			رقم التواصل	
تفاصيل التواصل	هاتف الاب: هاتف الام: رقم هاتف الطفل :-		: البريد الالكتروني	



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ملاحظات	تفاصيل حول المخاوف	
		علامات مثيرة للشبهات / إفصاحات
		ملاحظات (يرجى ادخال التاريخ والوقت في حال وجودها)
		مناقشات (يرجى ادخال التاريخ والوقت في حال وجودها)
		المعلومات المقدمة من قبل الطفل (ان وجدت)
		الإجراءات المتخذة (ان وجدت)
		العلامات الفارقة التي تدل على الاساءة (اقوال - اثار)

ملاحظات	(الجاني المزعوم) اذا كان معروفا				
					الاسم
		الجنسية		النوع الاجتماعي	العمر
		رقم الهاتف		المهنة	العلاقة بالطفل

ملاحظات	تفاصيل حول المبلغ			
		المهنة		الاسم
		المدرسة		العنوان
		البريد الالكتروني	الهاتف	تفاصيل التواصل
		التاريخ		التوقيع

برأيك نوع الإساءة الواقعة على الطفل:	جنس ي	جسد ي	إهمال	عاطفي	إساءة جنسية عبر الإنترنت
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Appendix 3

For staff on short contracts in American Gulf School

While working in American Gulf School, you have a duty of care towards the children/pupils/students here. This means that at all times you should act in a way that is consistent with their safety and welfare.

In addition, if at any time you have a concern about a child or young person, 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 Child Protection Liaison Officer (CPLO), who is Name and can be found details

This is not an exhaustive list, but you may have become concerned as a result of:

- » observing a physical injury, which you think may have been non-accidental.
- » observing something in the appearance of a child or young person which suggests they are not being sufficiently well cared for.
- » observing behaviour that leads you to be concerned about a child or young person.
- » a child or young person telling you that they have been subjected to some form of abuse.

In any of the circumstances listed here, you must write down what you saw or heard, date and sign your account, and give it to the CPLO. This may be the beginning of a legal process – it is important to understand that legal action against a perpetrator can be seriously damaged by any suggestion that the child has been led in any way.

If a child talks to you about abuse, you should follow these guidelines:

- » Rather than directly questioning the child, just listen and be supportive.
- » Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events, but don't push the child to tell you more than they wish.
- » Make it clear that you may need to pass on information to staff in other agencies who may be able to help – do not promise confidentiality. You are obliged to share any information relating to abuse or neglect.
- » Write an account of the conversation immediately, as close to verbatim as possible. Put the date and timings on it, and mention anyone else who was present. Then sign it, and give your record to the designated person/child protection officer, who should contact children's social care if appropriate.

The school has a policy on safeguarding children and young people which you can find, together with the local procedures to be followed by all staff, in location.

Remember, if you have a concern, discuss it with the CPLO.



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Appendix 4

PERSONS INVOLVED IN TRANSPORTING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The issue of transporting children has become a sensitive issue for some schools. Many schools argue that school transport should be outside their responsibility. Others include the issue of transport in the school child protection policy. Whichever is chosen it is important to ensure children are transported safely without risk of harm or abuse.

All drivers must:

- » Hold a valid driving licence for the type of vehicle being driven
- » Be fit to drive
- » Have no medical condition which affects their ability to drive
- » Ensure that any vehicle is roadworthy, including brakes, lights, tyres, bodywork, wipers, mirrors etc
- » Ensure that they adhere to the appropriate speed limit
- » Ensure that all seat belts are working and worn by everybody in the vehicle

Safety:(HSE manager in charge)

- » Be familiar with, and drive in accordance with, the road regulations at all times
- » Drive safely and observe the speed limit
- » Before driving not to consume alcohol or drugs which may impair driving
- » Ensure that all passengers wear seat belts as appropriate
- » Use child proof locks on doors where necessary

Appendix 5

Safer Recruitment

Across AGS Education, we strongly recognise the need for vigilant awareness of child protection issues. It is important that all staff have appropriate training and induction so that they understand their roles and responsibilities and are confident about carrying them out. Staff, pupils and parents should feel secure that they can raise any issues or concerns about the safety or welfare of children and know that they will be listened to and taken seriously. This will be achieved by maintaining an ethos of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and protecting staff. This is supported by having clear child protection policies, appropriate induction and training, briefing and discussion of relevant issues and relevant learning. Vetting applicants and prospective volunteers working with children to ensure they are not unsuitable is a very important aspect of child protection.

In keeping with the above safeguarding statement AGS Education requires that all persons



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having regular or unsupervised access to children will be required to produce proof of their having no history of committing any offence that would suggest they present a risk to children. The proof of such should be provided by a recognized law enforcement agency with contact details being provided for verification purposes.

AGS Education ensures that a member of every interview panel has received training in safe recruitment. All staff involved in the recruitment and interviewing process are aware of strategies to identify those who pose a risk and write advertisements, contact referees and interview accordingly.

Appendix 6

Legislation

This is a brief overview of the Legislation and Guidance that staff can refer to if they want more information

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

This is an international agreement setting out the minimum standards for protecting children's rights. It was incorporated into the law in the Children Act 1989. The Convention refers to all children up to the age of 18 years.

In relation to safeguarding children, it states that:

- » the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration when action is taken concerning them
- » children are to be protected from all forms of discrimination
- » every child has the inherent right to life, survival and development
- » children should not be punished cruelly or in a way that belittles them
- » children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect and be given proper care by those looking after them
- » children who are victims of abuse are entitled to the care and treatment needed to recover from the effects of their mistreatment.

Federal Penal Code (3) of 1987, which in relation to child abuse and neglect states, "a person who fails to report a criminal offense is liable to prosecution".

The following articles from Penal Code (3) of 1987 provide further guidance.

Physical Abuse: 343 & 342 ,341 ,340 ,339 ,338 ,337 ,336.

Sexual Abuse: 362 & 364 ,363 ,358 ,356 ,354

Emotional Abuse: 374 & 373 ,372 ,352 ,351

Neglect: 350 & 349 ,348.



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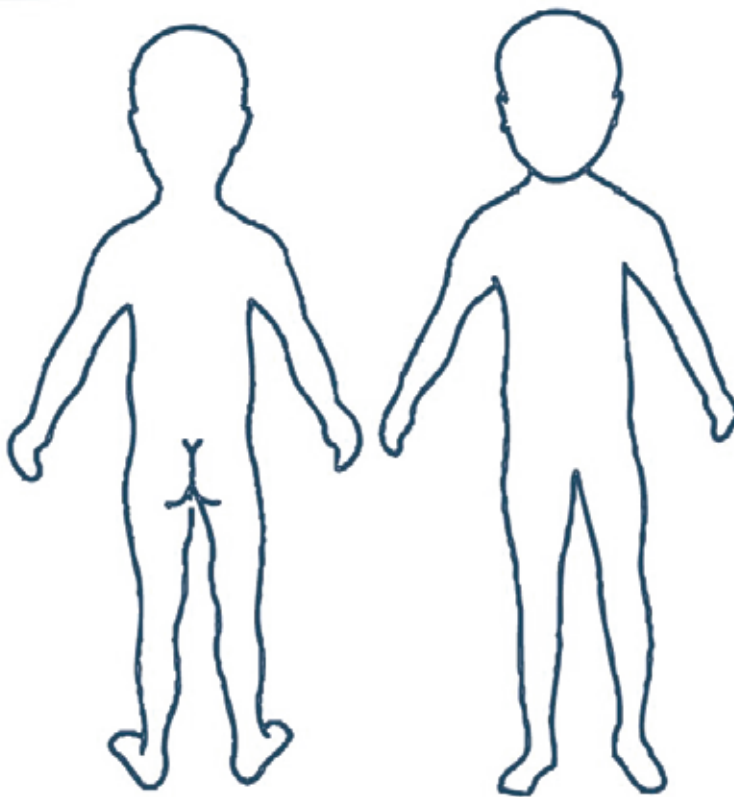


Appendix 7 Body Map

Body Map

Site of injuries or Marks

To always be attached to a Child Protection Report Form



Child's Name:	
Date of incident:	
Name of reporter:	
Signature of reporter:	