

## 21. Child Protection Policy

- ❖ Rationale
- ❖ Purpose
- ❖ Policy Statement
- ❖ Process and Procedures
- ❖ Roles and Responsibilities
- ❖ Steps to report a suspected abuse
- ❖ Policy Appendices

### ❖ Rationale

The provisions of this policy shall be applied in all public and private schools in Abu Dhabi Emirate in a way that does not contradict the provisions of the Organizing Regulations of Private Schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (2013). This policy substitutes Policy No.3 concerning Student Protection in the Private Schools Policy and Guidance Manual.

### ❖ Purpose

To ensure that all schools have student protection measures in place to:

1. Protect them in the school from all acts constituting physical, emotional and sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect and bullying.
2. Identify and support those students who may have suffered such abuse or neglect as strongly enforced by UAE Federal Law NO.3, 2016 on Child Rights and other relevant UAE laws.
3. Emphasis that ADEK employees and school staff are mandated reporters of cases of abuses and/or suspected abuse inside and outside the school.
4. Define duties and responsibilities of school principals and staff for responding to suspected cases of abuse and/or neglect.

## ❖ Policy Statement

A child under this policy is a person under 18 years old

- This policy defines all measures, steps and actions that must be taken to protect students from risks while they are in the school's care, travelling to and from school using school transport, and taking part in all activities (inside or outside) organized by the school.
- A school day is the time the student spends under school supervision and responsibility.
- Abuse refers to physical, sexual and emotional abuse it also includes bullying, exploitation and neglect.
- All types of abuse are explained in the policy in details

## ❖ Policy Process and Procedures

- All schools **MUST** comply with the provision of this policy and purplish it to protect students from any abuse and neglect.
- The school staff and principal are guardians of all students' rights for protection, safety and security.
- The school must ensure the supervision of students before the start of the school day and after school hours, students should **NEVER** left unattended at any time.
- School staff **MUST** inform the principal immediately when they suspect any case of abuse and/or neglect for any student.
- School staff is **STRICTLY** prohibited from discussing active or closed cases with any third parties or unauthorized persons.
- Failure to comply with this policy **is subject to legal accountability and administrative penalties stipulated with ADEK regulations.**

## ❖ Roles and Responsibilities

The policy sets clearly the roles and responsibilities of:

- Principal

- School staff
- Parents/ Legal guardians

### ❖ **Steps to report a suspected abuse**

First:

- Identify the signs of child abuse and/or neglect
- Refer to possible signs in attachments 1-4

Second:

- Inform the Principal when expect a case of abuse and/or neglect

Third:

- Communicate and meet the child's parents or guardians
- Sign the form for a suspected case

Fourth:

- Ensure confidentiality and privacy of any reported case
- Contact the Child Protection Center / MOI

### ❖ **Policy Appendices**

There are 5 attachments, and they explain the possible signs of:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Attachment 5 shows the process to report a suspected case

All Forms are kept with the authorized people assigned by Principal.