



JEDDAH PREP AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Jeddah Prep and Grammar School recognises its responsibilities for the protection of the children in our care. Children who witness violence or are abused in any way may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in their lives. When at School, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. All adults working at the School must be aware of their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare, both physical and emotional, of every pupil inside, outside school and online. This involves significant physical or emotional harm and that there is a positive commitment to ensure the satisfactory development and growth of the individual.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, members of the School community are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The School will therefore establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to, and ensure that all children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried. Through pastoral support, different subject curricular and discussions during tutor periods, we facilitate children in the development of the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. This policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school.

There are five main elements to this policy:

- Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children;
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe;
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse;
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with their individual agreed child protection plan;
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

Following best practice in the UK and Saudi Arabia, the School will;

- Ensure we have designated members of staff for safeguarding/ child protection who have received appropriate training and support for this role.

At JPGS, these people are the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads;

- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and board member knows the name of the designated members of staff responsible for child protection and their specific roles and responsibilities;
- 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 staff responsible for child protection;
- Keep records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately;
- Ensure all records are kept securely on MyConcern
- Follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer;
- Develop effective links with relevant external agencies in the Kingdom and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters;
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

The School will endeavour to support students through;

- The content of the curriculum;
- The School vision and mission, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued;
- The School policies which are aimed at supporting vulnerable students in the school. The School will ensure that students know that some behaviour is unacceptable but they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
- Ensuring that in the event a student leaves, JPGS will ensure that the student's information and record is transferred to the new school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policies, Anti-Bullying Policies, Code of Conduct, Data Protection Policy, Pupil Attendance and Absence Policy, Social Media Policy, Staff Behaviour Policy and Health & Safety Policy. Staff are required to confirm that they have read Part 1 and Annex A of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025'. Staff are also expected to completed the online certified Educare Child Protection and Safeguarding Training for International Schools in September.

It is vital that all staff and parents are made aware of the School's Safeguarding Policy and to whom they should report any concerns.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (SDSL) Mr R. Ali Headmaster	Email: head@jpgs.org Telephone 0126542354
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs N Jabbar	Email njabbar@jpgs.org Telephone 0126542354
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL – Prep school) Mr M Shahzad	Email mshahzad@jpgs.org Telephone 0126542354
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL – Grammar school) Mr R. Garnett Director of PE	Email: rgarnet@jpgs.org Telephone 0126542354
Designated Safeguarding Governor Dr Z. Ahmed	Email: Board-Of-Governors@jpgs.org
Chair of Governors Mr D. Osman	Email: Board-Of-Governors@jpgs.org

The Senior DSL and DSL will ensure that:

- Child Protection policy and procedures are in place and followed;
- Safe recruitment procedures are in place and followed;
- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the school and are responsible for coordinating action regarding referrals by liaising with relevant agencies over cases of abuse and allegations of abuse, regarding staff;
- Deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding arrangements are remedied without delay;
- Report safeguarding matters to the BoG (Safeguarding report completed by DDSL's)
- The Designated Safeguarding Governor is nominated to be responsible in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the Headmaster;
- Safeguarding policies and procedures are reviewed annually;

The DDSL will:

- First point of contact for all safeguarding related matters
- Ensure the school's Safeguarding Policy is updated and reviewed annually;

- Relevant safeguarding children training for school staff is provided;
- Ensure all parents see copies of the Safeguarding policy in order to alert them to the fact that the school may need to make referrals. Raising awareness may avoid later conflict if the school does have to take appropriate action to protect a child;
- Make themselves known to all staff and volunteers;
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and is aware of the school's Safeguarding Policy and associated procedures. This is also essential in respect of any members of staff who work part time or work with more than one school, such as peripatetic music teachers;
- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the school and are responsible for coordinating action regarding referrals by liaising with relevant agencies over cases of abuse and allegations of abuse, regarding students;
- Submit a termly safeguarding report to the SDSL/DSL who in turn will quality assure and then present to the Board of Governors.
- Should attend any relevant CPD courses and then ensure that any new or key messages are passed to other staff and volunteers;
- Be aware of the filtering and monitoring used to ensure the Internet is safe at school

Child protection records should include the date, event and action taken. Reports prepared for child protection meetings should focus on the pupil's:

- Educational progress and achievements
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Participation
- Relations with other children and young people
- Appearance, where appropriate
- Interaction with other children and adults

If relevant, reports should include what is known about the pupil's relations with his/her family and the family structure. Reports should be objective and based on evidence. They should distinguish between fact, observation, allegation and opinion.

The School will:

- Make reports available to the pupil's parents prior to the child protection conference unless to do so would place the pupil at risk of significant harm;
- Provide reports to the appropriate authorities, and arrange for an appropriate person from the school to attend meetings if required;
- Transfer any child protection records if the pupil moves schools.

The DDSL will also have an important role in ensuring all staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. All staff should have training in child protection through on-going CPD sessions. This should be relevant to their needs to enable them to identify and report any concerns immediately. They must be aware of how to identify abuse and know when it is appropriate to refer a case. Furthermore, nominated staff must have a working knowledge of how Child Protection systems operate in Saudi Arabia.

Responsibilities of all Staff

If a member of staff suspects that a pupil is a victim of abuse or they have reason to believe that he/she is at risk from abuse, they should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns. Pupils may confide in any member of the School Community: they do not always go to teachers.

Staff to whom an allegation is made should remember:

- Yours is a listening role; do not interrupt the pupil if he or she is freely recalling significant events. Any questions that may be needed to clarify what the pupil is saying should be framed in an open manner and you should not lead the pupil in any way.
- Accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep
- Not promise confidentiality – you will refer to DDSL/ DSL
- Reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify
- Not criticise the alleged perpetrator
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
- Log the discussion on MyConcern, as soon as possible (but within 24 hours) to pass on to the DDSL/. The note should record the time, date, place and people who were present, as well as what was said, as this may be required to support subsequent legal action.
- Once you have informed the DDSL, your responsibility in terms of referring concerns ends at this point. You should be aware, however, that you may have future role in terms of supporting or monitoring the pupil, contributing to the assessment or implementing child protection plans.

In order to protect children, Jeddah Prep and Grammar School has strict procedures for vetting and appointing all staff. This includes online searches. These procedures are regularly updated and must be followed in all cases.

Private Meetings

Staff and volunteers should be aware that private meetings with individual pupils may give rise to concern. There will be occasions when a confidential interview or a one-to-one meeting is necessary. Such interviews should be conducted in a room with visual access, or an area which is likely to be frequented by other people. Another pupil or adult should be present or nearby. Where such conditions cannot apply, staff should ensure that another adult knows that the interview is taking place. Meetings with pupils away from the School premises should not typically take place and thus only be arranged with the specified approval of the Headmaster and the prior permission of the parents of the pupil concerned.

Physical Contact with Pupils

Physical contact may be misconstrued by a pupil, parent or observer. Touching pupils, including well-intentioned gestures such as putting a hand on a shoulder, can lead to serious questions being raised. As a general principle staff must not make physical contact with their pupils. There may be occasions where a distressed pupil needs comfort and reassurance which may include physical comforting of the type a caring parent would give. The degree of such comfort is dependent on need, age and developmental maturity. Staff should use their discretion in such cases to ensure that what is normal and natural does not become unnecessary and unjustified contact, particularly with the same pupil over a period of time.

Some members of staff are likely to come into physical contact with pupils from time to time in the course of their duties. Staff should be aware of the limits within which such contact should properly take place and of the possibility of such contact being misinterpreted.

There may be occasions where it is necessary for staff to restrain a pupil physically to prevent them from inflicting injury to others, self-injury, damaging property, or causing disruption. Examples may be:

- A pupil attacks a fellow pupil or member of staff;
- Pupils are fighting;
- A pupil is engaged in deliberate vandalism to school property;
- A pupil is causing or is at risk of causing injury or damage by accident, medical need such as a seizure, rough play or by misuse of dangerous materials or objects;

In such cases, the member of staff should remain calm and tell the pupil to stop and what will happen if he/she does not. Judgement must be exercised before intervening physically – staff should not intervene in an incident without assistance

(unless an emergency) if there is risk of injury to themselves. If intervention is necessary, only the minimum force necessary may be used and any action taken must be to restrain the pupil. Where members of staff have taken action to restrain a pupil they should make a written report of the incident and inform their Head of School and/or Headmaster as soon as practical but within twelve hours of the incident.

Mental Health

- All staff should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.
- Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.
- If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following their child protection policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy.

Confidentiality

Safeguarding children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff/volunteers in schools.

All staff in schools, both teaching and non-teaching staff, have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with the DDSL/ DSL and the Heads of School at JPGS within the professional context.

If a child confides in a member of staff/volunteer and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff/volunteer tell the child in a manner appropriate to the child's age/stage of development that they cannot promise complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe. Staff/volunteers who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only with the DSL within appropriate professional contexts.

Communication with parents

JPGS will:

- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on the school and staff for safeguarding children

The School's Arrangements to fulfil other safeguarding arrangements to fulfil other safeguarding responsibilities

Teaching children how to keep safe

At JPGS all pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online, through the curriculum, assemblies and PHSE to help children to adjust their behaviours in order to reduce risks and build resilience. This includes teaching pupils about the safe use of electronic equipment, the internet and the risks posed by adults or young people, who use the internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. Pupils are also taught about relationships. Internet safety is an integral part of the School's Computer Science curriculum. All members of staff are required to have read and to follow the school's ICT Acceptable Use Policy, and Social Media Policy.

Recruitment of Staff

JPGS is committed to safer recruitment and has adopted procedures and processes (including its recruitment policy and safeguarding checks protocols) that are intended to help deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children. All overseas staff are subject to an ACRO, ICPC (or equivalent) police check, written and verbal references and other background checks as required for entrance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Online searches will also be carried out on newly appointed staff members.

Security

Entry to school premises is controlled by gates that are secured physically or by staff supervision or video surveillance. Authorised visitors to the school will be logged into and out of the premises and will be asked to wear school visitor badges. Unidentified visitors will be challenged by staff or reported to Security.

Abuse

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This

can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse, including where they see, hear or experience its effects. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Signs of Child Abuse

All staff must be alert to signs of possible abuse and know to whom to report any concerns or suspicions. Individual indicators of abuse may not be particularly worrying in isolation, but in combination they can suggest that there is serious cause for concern.

Indicators of **physical** abuse may include:

Bruises

- To the eyes mouth or ears;
- Fingertip bruising (grasp mark);
- Bruises of different ages in the same place;
- Outline bruises (prints of hands, belts shoes, etc.);
- Bruises without obvious and verifiable explanations;

Burns, Bites and Scars

- Clear impressions of teeth (more than 3cm across unlikely to have been made by a child);
- Burns or scalds with clear outlines;
- Small round burns which may be from cigarettes;
- Large number of different aged scars;
- Unusually shaped scars;
- Scars that indicate the child did not receive medical treatment;

Other Injuries

- Poisoning, injections, ingestion or other applications of damaging substances including drugs and alcohol;
- Female genital mutilation, including female circumcision;

Indicators of **neglect and exploitation** include children who are:

- Not receiving adequate food;
- Exposed to inadequate, dirty and or cold/hot environments;
- Abandoned or left in circumstances without appropriate adult supervision which are likely to endanger them;
- Withheld from appropriate medical advice or treatment;

Indicators of **sexual abuse** include:

- Sexually transmitted diseases;
- Recurrent urinary infections;
- Genital and rectal itching and soreness;
- Unexplained bleeding and discharges;
- Bruising in genital region;
- Sexual play/masturbation that is inappropriate to a child's age, development and circumstances;
- Sexually abusive behaviour towards other children, particularly those younger and more vulnerable than themselves;
- Unexplained pregnancy;

Indicators of **emotional abuse** include:

- Abnormally passive, lethargic or attention seeking behaviour;
- Specific habit disorders, e.g. faecal smearing, excessive drinking, eating unusual substances and self-harm;
- Severely delayed social development, poor language and speech development not otherwise explained;
- Excessively nervous behaviour such as rocking or hair twisting;
- Low self-esteem;

The following indicators may occur to any children being abused but are particularly important in cases of sexual or emotional abuse where outward physical signs may not be present:

- Involuntary passing of urine;
- Sleeping and eating disturbance;
- Recurrent abdominal pains;
- Recurrent headaches;
- Social withdrawal;
- Restlessness and aimlessness;
- Inexplicable school failure;
- Poor trust and secretiveness;
- Indiscriminate and careless sexual behaviour;
- Self-mutilation and other forms of self-harm;
- Hysterical fits, faints, etc.

Date of Issue: October 2025	Reviewer: DSL, DDSL, Headmaster
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Appendix One

Responding to Safeguarding Concerns



