

CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Child Protection refers to any activity which is undertaken to protect children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm. NAS undertakes a whole school approach to child protection, and as such holds all staff responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our care.



In adherence to the Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 on child rights (Wadeema's Law), abuse (sexual, physical, emotional and neglect), bullying, harassment, physical intimidation, violence, intimidation of any including cyber bullying is against our school ethos and will not be tolerated and will be reported.

All matters are reported to the **Child Protection Officer (CPO)** who is familiar with the procedures and actions which should be taken by the school to support any child who may be at risk and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the protection of all students at New Academy School.

Student disclosure and confidentiality

NAS takes its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the students in its care seriously and acknowledges that each student has the explicit right to privacy and confidentiality.

Types and signs of child abuse

1. Physical Abuse:

- **Signs:** Unexplained recurrent injuries, bruises, burns, cuts, or welts; improbable

excuses or refusal to explain injuries; wearing clothes to cover injuries even in hot weather; refusal to undress for gym; bald patches; chronic running away; fear of physical contact - shrinking back if touched / flinches at sudden movements; admit that they were punished, but punishment is excessive (such as being 'beaten' every night to "make him study; fear of suspected abuser being contacted; seems afraid to go home; is always alert as if they anticipate something bad is going to happen.

2) *Emotional Abuse*

- Signs: Physical, mental and emotional development delays; sudden speech disorders; continual self-depreciation ("I'm stupid, ugly, worthless", etc.); overreaction to mistakes; extreme fear of any new situation; inappropriate response to pain ("I deserve this"); neurotic behavior (rocking, hair twisting, etc.); extremes of passivity or aggression; excessive withdrawal, fear, or anxiety about doing something wrong; does not seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver; exhibits either extremely adult-like behavior (like being overly responsible for other children) or extremely infant like (for example thumb-sucking or temper tantrums; stealing; destructiveness or cruelty to animals, siblings or other children.

3) *Sexual Abuse*

- Signs: Being isolated or withdrawn; inability to concentrate; lack of trust or fear of someone they know well (such as not wanting to be alone with the baby sitter) or child-minder; bedwetting; nightmares; worried about clothing being removed trouble walking or sitting; has an interest or knowledge in sexual content which is inappropriate to his/her age; seductive behavior; makes a strong effort to avoid a specific person or place (home or specific relative for example) without an apparent reason; spontaneous crying excessive hygiene/washing; unexplained money or gifts; and runaway or delinquent behaviors.

4) Neglect

- *Signs:* Dirty skin, offensive body odor, unwashed, uncombed, or matted hair; under or oversized and unclean clothing; dressed in different clothing that is inappropriate to weather or situation; frequently left unsupervised or alone for extended periods of time; untreated illness or physical injuries; is often late or frequently missing from school.

Lost child procedure

Prevention is always better than cure, thus all staff are required to be as vigilant as possible in checking the number of students in their care. This means that in addition to the keeping of attendance registers, headcounts after break times and at the beginning of lessons should be taking place to identify any possibly missing students as quickly as possible. Should a child be found to be missing, the loss should immediately be reported to the Supervisor who should inform the Head of School (HOS), Principal or member of the SLT who can then coordinate the course of action. The necessary actions would be taken as stated in child protection policy.

Late collection procedure

If a child is not collected at the end of the school day, the child remains the responsibility of the class teacher or assistant until alternative arrangements outlined in the child protection policy have been made.

Late collection from after school activities

Those in charge of after school activities have a responsibility to ensure that the pupils in their care are safely collected at the end of the session. In the event of a child not being collected, the "activity leader" will stay with the child for 15 minutes to allow for normal delay or lateness. After this time, the activity leader will either take the child / children to the designated waiting area or if the activity is off-site the teacher in charge must remain with the child and follow the late collection procedure as stated in the child protection policy.