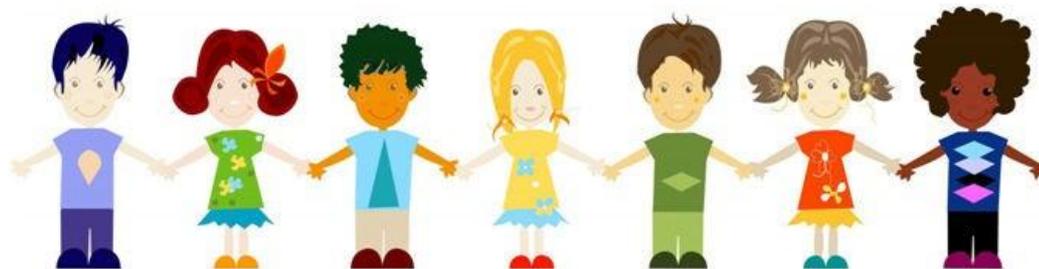


CHILD PROTECTION AT KICS



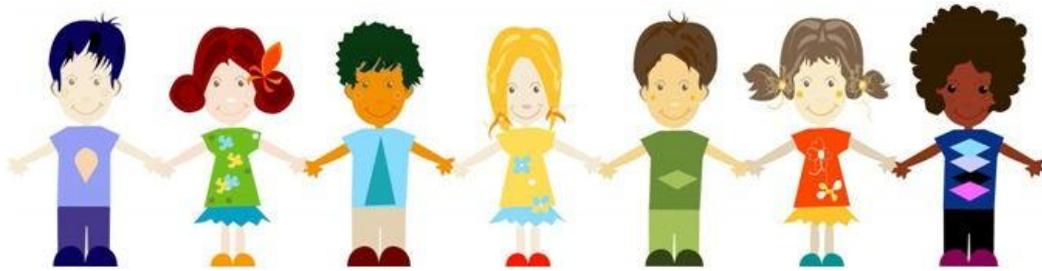
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

2017-18

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Child Protection at KICS



Dear Parents,

The Board of Governors of Khartoum International Community School, in keeping with the KICS mission and beliefs statements, has adopted a Child Protection Policy to guide our staff and families in matters related to the health, safety and care of children at our school. This policy is so important, that, as the Head of School, I will be sending this booklet to parents at the beginning of each school year to remind our community about this truly critical issue.

The KICS Child Protection Policy is based on international law and on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of which Sudan is a signatory. There are two key articles to which we wish to draw your attention:

Article 19 - Protection from abuse and neglect

The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the care of the child and establish appropriate social programs for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Article 34 - Sexual exploitation

The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

By enrolling your child at KICS, you agree to work in partnership with the school and abide by the policies adopted by the KICS Board. All of us at KICS want you

Child Protection at KICS

to know that we genuinely value our partnership with you in providing for the safety and care of your children. It is for this reason that KICS has endorsed a Child Protection Policy that defines the standards by which all KICS students should be treated, with respect and dignity at all times.

As part of our overall educational programme and specific to our shared responsibility to educate children to protect themselves and to enable them to grow and learn in a safe environment, KICS will:

1. Provide age appropriate lessons to help students to understand personal safety;
2. Provide parent materials and information sessions to help you better understand our programmes and policy;
3. Annually train faculty and staff to recognize and report issues of abuse and neglect. I thank you for your support of our efforts.

Sincerely

P W Reed.

KICS Board Child Protection Policy

students who may be experiencing abuse or neglect in any aspect of their lives. As such, KICS will distribute this policy annually to all parents and applicant families, will Policy 7.001 and 5.031

'The KICS Board believes that child abuse and neglect are violations of a child's human rights and are obstacles to the child's education as well as to their physical, emotional and social development. Khartoum International Community School endorses the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which our host country, Sudan, is a signatory. The Board believes that schools fill a special institutional role in society as protectors of children. Schools need to ensure that all children in their care are afforded a safe and secure environment in which to grow and develop. Educators, having the opportunity to observe

and interact with children over time, are in a unique position to identify children in need of help and protection. As such, the Board recognizes that educators have a professional and ethical obligation to identify children who are in need of help and protection and to take steps to ensure that the child and family avail themselves of the services needed to remedy any situation that constitutes child abuse or neglect.

All staff employed at Khartoum International Community School must report suspected incidences of child abuse or neglect whenever the staff member has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered or is at significant risk of suffering abuse or neglect. Reporting and follow up of all suspected incidences of child abuse or neglect will proceed in accordance with administrative regulations respective to this policy. Furthermore, cases of suspected child abuse or neglect may be reported to the appropriate sponsor, to the respective consulate in Khartoum, to the appropriate child protection agency in the home country, and/or to local authorities.

Khartoum International Community School seeks to be a safe haven for communicate this policy annually to students, will provide training for all staff, and will make every effort to implement hiring practices to ensure the safety of

Child Protection at KICS

children. In the case of a staff member reported as an alleged offender, Khartoum International Community School will conduct a full investigation following a carefully designed course of due process, keeping the safety of the child at the highest priority'.

For detailed information on the Convention on the Rights of Child see the following link: http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30160.html .



KICS Child Protection Team

Dear Parents,

My name is Ms Tanya. I am the KICS Child Protection Officer. This is my tenth year at KICS and during this time I have been a PYP Class Teacher and a member of the Child Protection Team. Student welfare, and specifically child safety and protection, is fundamental to every aspect of my working day at KICS.

The KICS 2017-18 Child Protection Team includes: -

Mr. Peter - Principal	Ms. Tanya - Child Protection Officer
Mrs. Lyla - Guidance Counsellor	Mr. Andrew - Head of Seniors
Mrs. Maria - Head of Primary	Mrs. Reem - External Affairs Director
Mrs. Sally - Human Resources and Service Manager	Mr. Ahmed - Site Manager (Health and Safety)
Ms. Carly - Head of Student Support Services	Mr. Brad - Education Technology Coordinator
Mr. Jamie - Senior PE Teacher	Ms. Molly - Primary Teacher
Mrs. Mae Ann - School Nurse	Mrs. Mona Nasreldin - KICS Parent

Child Protection at KICS

Beyond KICS, we work closely with the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) Child Protection Team, local child protection authorities and the DAL Group legal team to support our work.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like any further information about child protection at KICS. My email address is tanya.abdalla@kics.sd

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanya Abdalla". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Child Protection Education at KICS

We provide age appropriate lessons to help students to understand personal safety and the issues involved in child protection. To do so, it is important that we involve parents in advance of child protection lessons to outline the content of each lesson and to provide parent materials to support their child's learning. The focus of child protection lessons is for students to be able to: -

1. IDENTIFY unsafe and difficult situations at their age appropriate level;
2. ACT in an unsafe and difficult situation;
3. ACCESS trusted persons in an unsafe and difficult situation;
4. REPORT an unsafe and difficult situation;
5. AVOID unsafe and difficult situation.



**OUR CHILDREN. OUR FOCUS.
OUR FUTURE.**

In the Primary Section we will base much of our work with children on the UK National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Underwear Rule. This rule focuses on the PANTS acronym:

P - Privates are private;

A - Always remember your body belongs to you;

N - No means no;

T - Talk about secrets that upset you;

S - Speak up, someone can help.

The NSPC Underwear Rule can be found at: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/help-and-advice/for-parents/keeping-your-child-safe/the-underwear-rule/the-underwear-rule_wda97016.html

Child protection education in the 21st Century includes online as well as 'real-world' safety. KICS is committed to ensuring that our children grow up as safe, confident and informed young people with the skills to deal with difficult or unsafe situations.

What Do We Mean By Abuse and Neglect?

What is Child Abuse?

According to the World Health Organization, child abuse constitutes "all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power."

A person may abuse a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional (e.g. school) or community setting; children may be abused by individuals known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. Often children may experience multiple forms of abuse simultaneously, further complicating the problem.



What is Physical Abuse?

Physical abuse may involve hitting, punching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, biting, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing intentional physical harm to a child.

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE ARE: -

- Unexplained bruises and welts on any part of the body.
- Bruises of different ages (various colours).
- Injuries reflecting shape of article used (electric cord, belt, buckle, ping pong paddle, hand).
- Injuries that regularly appear after absence or vacation.
- Unexplained burns, especially to soles, palms, back or buttocks.
- Burns with a pattern from an electric burner, iron or cigarette.
- Rope burns on arms, legs, neck, or torso.
- Injuries inconsistent with information offered by the child.
- Immersion burns with a distinct boundary line.
- Unexplained laceration, abrasions, or fractures.

What is Emotional Abuse?

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve: conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved; that they are inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person; age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children; causing children frequently to feel frightened; or the exploitation or corruption of children. This may occur face-to-face or in the case of online cyber bullying. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may also occur alone.



What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (i.e. rape) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production or viewing of pornographic material or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Possible indicators of sexual abuse:-

- Sexual knowledge, behaviour or use of language not appropriate to age level.
- Unusual interpersonal relationship patterns.
- Venereal disease in a child of any age.
- Evidence of physical trauma or bleeding to the oral, genital or anus areas.
- Difficulty in walking or sitting.
- Refusing to change into physical education (PE) clothes, fear of bathrooms.
- Child running away from home and not giving any specific complaints.
- Not wanting to be alone with an individual.
- Pregnancy, especially at a young age.
- Extremely protective parenting.



What is Neglect?

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, physiological and medical needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development, such as, failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing; neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional and medical needs.

Possible indicators of neglect: -

- Parents are uninterested in child's academic performance.
- Parents do not respond to repeated communications from the school.
- Child does not want to go home.
- Both parents and guardian are absent from Khartoum for any period of 24 hours or greater.
- Parents cannot be reached in the case of an emergency.
- Child is unwashed or hungry.

Behavioural indicators in and of themselves do not constitute abuse or neglect.

Together with other indicators, such as family dynamics, they may warrant a Referral.

What happens when suspected abuse and neglect is reported?

When there is a cause to suspect child abuse or neglect, it is the responsibility of the staff member to report their concern to the Head of Section. All employees are mandated to report incidences of abuse and neglect.

Procedures for reporting suspected cases of abuse and neglect

Step 1

When a child reports abuse or neglect or there is reasonable cause to believe that abuse is occurring, the member of staff will seek advice from the Head of Section by the end of the day.

The Head of Section, with the support of the Guidance Counsellor (designated Child Protection Officer at KICS), will take initial steps to gather information regarding the reported incident and will form a School-Based Response Team as needed to address the report.

In all case, follow up activities will be conducted in a manner that ensures that information is documented factually and that strict confidentiality is maintained. The following procedures will be used:

1. Interview staff members as necessary and document information relative to the case;
2. Consult with school personnel to review the child's history in the school;
3. Report status of case to the Principal;
4. Determine the course of follow-up actions.

Step 2

Based on acquired information, a plan of action will be developed by the School-Based Response Team to assist the child and family. Actions that may take place are:

1. Discussions between the child and Guidance Counsellor in order to gain more information;
2. In-class observations of the child by the teacher, Guidance Counsellor or Head of Section;
3. Meeting (s) with the family to present the School's concerns;
4. Referral of the student and family to external professional counselling.

Step 3

Subsequent to a reported and /or substantiated case of child abuse or neglect:

1. The Guidance Counsellor will maintain contact with the child and family to provide support and guidance as appropriate;
2. The Guidance Counsellor will provide the child's teacher (s) and Heads of Sections with ongoing support;
3. The Guidance Counsellor will provide resource materials and strategies for teacher use;
4. The Guidance Counsellor will maintain close contact with outside therapists and multidisciplinary teams to update the progress of the child in school.

All documentation of the investigation will be kept confidentially. Records sent to schools to which a student may transfer will be flagged to let the receiving school know there is a confidential file for the child. KICS will make every attempt to share this information to protect the child.

Most cases of suspected abuse or neglect will be handled by the school Guidance Counsellor, such as those involving:

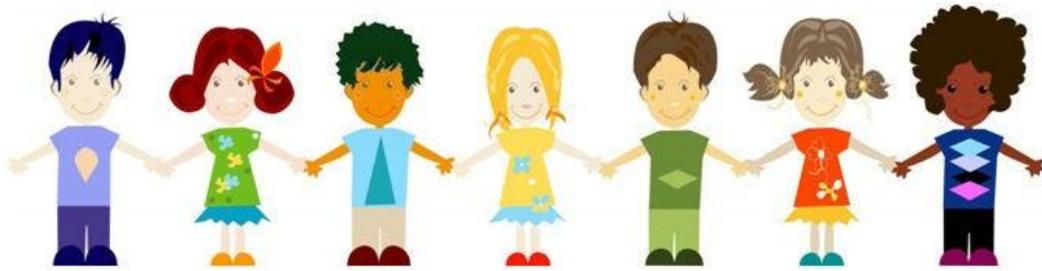
- " Student relationships with peers;
- " Parenting skills related to disciplining children at home; "
- " Student-parent relationships;
- " Mental health issues such as mild depressions, low self-esteem and grieving.

Some cases will be referred to outside resources, for example:

- " Mental health issues such as depression and suicide threat; "
- Cases reported for investigation and outside resources;
- " Severe and ongoing abuse or neglect.

In extreme cases when families do not stop the abuse or concerns remain about the safety of the child, reports could be made to:

- Local authorities;
- The consulate;
- The employer;
- The home-of-record welfare office.



KICS would like to thank and acknowledge the support of Lincoln Community School, Ghana and the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA)'s Child Protection Working Group for the publication of this handbook.

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