



Child Abuse Policy

TAPS Child Abuse Policy

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Reviewed by: Taryam American Private School Safeguarding Team

Our Vision: To create an outstanding and creative educational environment which empowers students to achieve their potential and to become life-long learners and future leaders.

رؤية المدرسة: توفير بيئة تعليمية إبداعية مميزة تمكن الطلبة من استغلال طاقاتهم وامتلاك مهارات التعلم مدى الحياة وأن يصبحوا قادة المستقبل.

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Policy Statement

Taryam American Private School ensures that our students are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behavior constitute abuse and neglect.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone.

Abuse may be committed by adult men or women and by other children and young people.

There are four categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse& exploitation and neglect

✓ Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the willful neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behavior.

✓ Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some levels of emotional abuse are involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems, and parental substance misuse may expose children to emotional abuse .

✓ Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

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Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children looking at, or the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways .

✓ Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional, and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter, and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation, or lack of supervision. It may also include non-organic failure to thrive. The Ministry of Interior Child Protection Centre aims to develop the best possible arrangements for the investigation of all forms of child abuse, ensuring that those who commit serious offences against children are brought to justice and to provide child abuse victims with the best possible investigative and support services.

Prevention of Neglect, Physical, Emotional & Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

“Prevention is better than cure” is true not only in the context of health but also in the protection of children. A lot can be done in society to prevent the sexual or physical abuse of children. Child Abuse and neglect is wrong and should never be tolerated in any society.

Parents, teachers and children must learn this and be prepared to implement measures to ensure children protection. Parents must learn how to keep children safe from neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse without scaring them or overwhelming them with explicit details about all the bad things that might happen. Children are most vulnerable for different forms of exploitation by adults for money or other benefits. They need protection from any form of exploitation. In general, children are being exploited commercially and or sexually. Children should be taught to recognize what is acceptable and what is not acceptable behavior by both adults and other children. They should be empowered to stop unwanted touches, teasing or physical assault and taught to persist until

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they get the help they need. These skills can be taught by parents through role play and by using examples that are age-appropriate and relevant to their daily lives.

The Ministry of Interior Child Protection Centre will work with all other entities and organizations in the UAE to prevent the risk of children being neglected or being physically, emotionally and/or sexually abused.

Child Abuse investigation

In the United Arab Emirates, the term '**child abuse**' is a comprehensive one, which is used to describe a range of activities, that may or may not, constitute criminal offences. In light of this fact, it is difficult to stipulate precise definitions. A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse. Abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff in this school is well placed to observe possible signs of abuse in children. It is neither the role nor responsibility of those working with children in the school to assess, diagnose or investigate whether a child is at risk of or suffering harm or abuse. It is the responsibility of all staff to be aware of the need to report any concerns about a child to the Designated Member of Staff as a matter of priority or to one of the Designated Members of Staff.

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms. Amira Galal
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Dr. Bayan Nawafleh
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr. Abdelazim hamdi
Principal / Head of School	Dr. Raed Abdalla
Deputy Principal Assistant	Ms. Eman Saeed
Term Date	September,2021 -August 2022

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TAPS Principal will:

- ✓ Comply with the provision of this policy.
- ✓ Ensure that procedures to prevent situations that could lead to the abuse or neglect of students are in place and understood by all staff and leaders.
- ✓ Ensure that there is priority emphasis within the school on the protection of the students and for taking immediate actions where there is suspicion of cases of student abuse or neglect.
- ✓ Ensure that the students can safely report their concerns about abuse and/or neglect without fear of retribution or punishment.
- ✓ Ensure that the staff and others can safely report their concern about the potential exposure of any student to abuse and/or neglect.
- ✓ Ensure that all staff and administrators targeted for child protection training are fully attend and participate in all training sessions.

TAPS Senior Leadership Team will ensure the following:

- ✓ Make sure all staff know about the procedures relating to child protection.
- ✓ Ensure the supervision of students at all times while in school's care.
- ✓ Ensure that all staff are clear about their responsibilities within the child protection procedures.
- ✓ Make sure that all staff know that the designated teacher should be informed about any suspicions or allegations of abuse.
- ✓ Keep all records up to date.
- ✓ Advise staff in cases of uncertainty and give informed advice and guidance to new staff.
- ✓ Consider, in conjunction with the Head of School, at what point to involve parents/carers.
- ✓ Contact with other relevant agencies.
- ✓ Be supportive to those members of staff to whom pupils have made disclosures.
- ✓ Be active in supporting the Child Protection Plan.

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The Role of TAPS Staff

- ✓ Report all suspected case of abuse and/or neglect inside and outside the school upon immediate discovery.
- ✓ All staff will be alert to signs of abuse and will act upon any concerns or suspicions.
- ✓ Supervise students at all times while in school care.
- ✓ All staff will attend and participate child protection training.
- ✓ All staff will respect confidentiality and share information on a need-to-know basis.
- ✓ All staff will understand this policy to address suspected or alleged student abuse or neglect cases.

Parents/Legal Guardians will:

- ✓ Cooperate with the school administration and staff, answer all queries related to the student's behavior, academic performance and respond to the school's feedback and guidance
- ✓ Attend all scheduled meetings
- ✓ Communicate any concern or observed changes in their child's behavior to the school authorities.

Key points to follow if abuse is suspected or observed:

TAPS staff in charge of children or young people should know what to do if they suspect that someone is physically or sexually abused, or if someone tells them that this is happening. The following key points give a guide on what to do and what not to do:

- ✓ **Always stop and listen** straight away to someone who wants to tell you about incidents or suspicions of abuse.
- ✓ **Write brief notes** of what they are telling you while they are speaking (these may help later if you have to remember exactly what was said) – and keep your original notes, however rough and even if you wrote on the back of something else (it's what you wrote at the time that may be important later – not a tidier and improved

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version you wrote up afterwards). If you don't have the means to write at the time, make notes of what was said or observed as soon as possible afterwards.

- ✓ **Never make a promise** that you will keep what is said confidential or secret – if you are told about abuse you have a responsibility to tell the right people to get something done about it. If asked, explain that if you are going to be told something very important that needs to be sorted out, you will need to tell the people who can sort it out, but that you will only tell the people who absolutely have to know.
- ✓ **Do not ask leading questions** that might give your own ideas of what might have happened (e.g. “did he do X to you?”) – just ask “what do you want to tell me?” or “is there anything else you want to say?”.
- ✓ **Immediately tell the** person in charge of the group (unless they are themselves accused or suspected of abusing) – don't tell other adults or young people what you have been told.
- ✓ • Discuss with the person in charge whether any steps need to be taken to protect the person who has told you about the abuse (this may need to be discussed with the person who told you).
- ✓ **Never attempt to carry out** an investigation of suspected or alleged abuse by interviewing people etc. – Social Services and police staff are trained to do this – you could cause more damage and spoil possible criminal proceedings. It is your duty to refer concerns on, not investigate.
- ✓ **As soon as possible** (and certainly the same day) the person in charge should refer the matter to the principal (helped by your notes). Follow their request about what to do next. They will set up any necessary investigations, and advise you – that is their statutory job.
- ✓ **Never think abuse is impossible** in your organization or group, or that an accusation against someone you know well and trust is bound to be wrong.
- ✓ **At times children and young adults** (senior students) often disclose about abuse to their peers. It should be ensured that students are aware of the Child Protection Policy.

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