Al Zuhour Private School

ATHENA EDUCATION
For Social Grace

AL ZUHOUR PRIVATE SCHOOL

Child Protection Policy

Approved by: SLT
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Policy Objectives

Protecting and enhancing children's welfare is the collective responsibility of everyone; every person who deals with children and their family has a role to play. To effectively honor this responsibility, every person dealing with a child must ensure that the welfare, wellbeing, and best interests of the child operate as the primary and guiding focus of all dealings with the child.

The Ministry asserts its complete commitment to ensure the welfare, safety, and respect for all children, and that a positive, enjoyable, and safe educational environment is created for every child without discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, gender, origin, religious doctrine, social standing or disability.

This Policy seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1- Ensure implementation of mechanisms and measures of child protection in educational institutions pursuant to the applicable legislations in the State and the international conventions in place.
2- Determine the roles and responsibilities of all personnel working for the educational institutions, and all stakeholders including parents, individuals, agencies, partners, and the relevant service providers.
3- Create a safe and supportive school environment to protect the child against occurrences that can threaten the child's survival and wellbeing in terms of physical, mental, intellectual, educational or moral health.
4- Enable the child to exercise his/her rights, particularly educational rights and the right for protection pursuant to the provisions set out in the applicable legislations and the provisions of Federal Law No. (3) of 2016, 4 its implementing regulation and the international conventions ratified by the country.
5- Create a safe and confidential information reporting and complaints system for potential or suspected child abuse or compromising of the child's rights within an educational institution, the services and utilities provided by the educational institution, the transportation of children to and from the educational institutions, and any extracurricular activities organized by the educational institution or Ministry.
6- Provide the child with social and psychological protection and support and care after cases of child abuse.
7- Enhance child welfare in all aspects.
8- Foster and model positive behavior and the building of positive social school relationships.
9- Promote the principle of tolerance among all members of the school community.
10- Improve the competency of education professionals working in the field of child protection and bullying prevention.
11- Foster child protection partnerships.

Policy principles

The Policy is based on four main principles:

1- The child's best interest.
2- Moral, behavioral, and professional values.
3- Child protection.
4- Principle of protecting the child's privacy and confidentiality of information.

Types of Child Abuse

Physical Abuse	Physical abuse means causing physical harm or injury to the child or failing to or being unwilling to prevent physical harm to the child
Sexual Abuse	Sexual abuse means forcing, attracting or enticing the child to take part in anysexual behavior, whether it is aware or not. It includes the practices that do not involve any physical contact, such as engaging children in watching or producing pornographic material, watching sexual intercourses, or encouraging the children to act in a sexually inappropriate way.
Psychological Abuse	Psychological abuse means dealing abusively with the child's psychological state, causing severe and permanent harm and thus affecting the child's psychological growth and development
Neglect	Neglect means the failure of parents or caregivers to take the necessary measures to protect the child's life, and to provide physical, psychological, mental and moral safety against danger, and or to protect the rights of the child.

Policy Statement

1- The school and the school principal are guardians of the right of students to not being exposed to abuse and neglect.
2- The school principal agrees to act as the guardian of all students while they are under the school's care and must take responsibilities that fall under this role.
3- All students have equal rights for protection, safety, and security.
4- AZPS is fully responsible for the care and protection of students while students are in school's care, travelling to and from the school using school transport, and moving between, waiting for, and taking part in all activities organized by the school inside and outside the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

The school:

1. Appoint a member of the administrative or educational staff to be responsible for child protection, and all that is related to the child's rights and protection. Such members shall be deemed as the reference for the child protection initiatives, activities, information, and data that belong to the educational institution.
2. Verify and screen the qualifications and backgrounds of employees and caregivers before appointing

them.

3. Child protection and the best interests of the child shall be prioritized in all decisions made, and all procedures carried out with respect to the child.
4. All forms of violence shall be prohibited
5. Is fully responsible for creating a safe and secure environment for the child, in which the child feels protected against any occurrence that may threaten the child's physical and mental health and against any form of abuse or exploitation
6. Circulate all personnel working at AZPS about confidentially secure information reporting procedures, and their responsibilities for reporting any abuse or suspected forms of abuse or violence towards a child or student.
7. launch secure and confidential information reporting channels for all personnel working for the educational institution, all students, and all parents.
8. Spread awareness among students about child rights and the need to report any type of abuse or suspected abuse they or other students might be exposed to.
9. Spread awareness among parents about child protection and the importance of their role in protecting children.
10. Take all the necessary measures to safeguard and protect the children against substance abuse, including the use of narcotic, intoxicating and stimulant substances, all types of psychotropic substances, or the child's involvement in their production or trafficking.
11. Endeavor to detect cases of abuse early, identify the risk factors, develop the appropriate plans and programs for supporting the students through enhancing the competence of the child protection professionals and using assessment tools for early intervention and awareness campaigns.
12. Ensure that confidential information about every student is protected. Moreover, we should not announce the names of students, their families or any sensitive or personal information that could harm the reputation of the child or his family.
13. Obtain consent from a child's parent when necessary to use the child's personal photograph or any information via the media or for any other posts or publications.
14. Supervise the implementation of vocational development plans, awareness-raising, training, and qualification programs for all the personnel, associates and partners in respect of all that is related to the child rights and protection, and types of child abuse AZPS shall also supervise the implementation of plans and tools for modifying children's behavior, methods for dealing with child, training the children on applying the necessary skills to observe the indicators of abuse and means for protection against it.
15. Ensure that all personnel working at AZPS attend all training programs related to child protection.
16. Respect social diversity and differences of all types: race, color, gender, religion, expatriates, mental, psychological, and physical capabilities of each student.
17. Endeavor to achieve justice and equality in treatment for all students in the educational institution.
18. Ensure proper treatment based on equity and respect for all students, by use of appropriate, courteous, and respectful language.
19. Manage student behavior through role modeling appearance, behavior and positive situations that are appropriate and reflective of societal values.
20. Apply the professional codes of conduct.

Parents:

1. Be fully responsible towards the child and for the duties entrusted to them in the upbringing, care, guidance, and growth of the child as stated in the applicable law and legislations in the country.
2. Cooperate with the educational institution for creating a safe environment for the child in which the child

feels protected against occurrences that may threaten the child's survival, physical and mental health.

3. Notify the school or child protection units in case of an occurrence that may threaten the child's
4. safety, physical, or mental health.
5. Positively cooperate with the school or child protection units as required in any stage when
6. dealing with a case of abuse where the parent's children are involved.

Educational Authorities, Partners, and Support Service Providers:

1. Set the student's best interests as the basis for dealing with students, and not using the situation
2. or the students to attain private goals or serve the interests of the institution at the expense of
3. the students' interest.
4. Take the necessary response measures in respect of the complaints received from the Child Protection Unit at the Ministry and provide the necessary support to all the reported cases of abuse.
5. Take the necessary protection measures and provide the necessary support to all abuse cases of students/children referred from the Child Protection Unit at the Ministry.
6. Maintain as confidential any common data and not disclose any information related to students. - Suggest vocational development and training plans for the personnel working for the educational institution in the field of child protection.
7. Contribute to implementing training programs for the child protection professionals and all the personnel working for the educational institution in the field of child protection.
8. Participate in society awareness-raising campaigns in the field of child protection.
9. Contribute to achieving social support to child protection programs in a safe school environment.
10. Participate in the meetings held by the child protection committees and councils.

Child Protection Unit and Child Protection Professional:

Child protection professionals shall, each within the limits of his duties and responsibilities, take the necessary protection measures if there is anything that threatens to compromise the child's safety, physical, mental, psychological or moral health, without contradicting with Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on Child Rights Law (Wadeema Law) and Cabinet Resolution No. (52) of 2018 on the implementing regulation of Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 regarding child's rights.

These measures shall be taken as follows:

1. Remove the child from the abusive situation or location and place the child in a secure place to ensure his/her protection, at the discretion of the Child Protection specialists assessing the risk level surrounding the child.
2. Conduct a comprehensive social investigation for the cases that threaten the child's safety at the educational institution, in which the circumstances surrounding the child are explained. A report shall be submitted to the administrative authority to which the professional reports, accompanied by the recommendations about which necessary measures to take for the protection of the child.
3. Coordinate with the relevant bodies for the psychological and physical rehabilitation of the child by the professionals. This may include professionals from other psychological and social agencies, or other specified agencies.
4. Provide information programs for child caregivers about the best treatment to ensure the support, normal growth, and development of the child.
5. Pay field visits to the child at the educational institution as required, to ensure that the child has the

necessary support to solve any ongoing problems the child may have.

6. Submit recommendations to the relevant authority for supporting the child's family if the social circumstances of the family have contributed to the condition of the child.
7. Submit a report, to provide information about the circumstances surrounding the child, as required to assist prosecution or take the appropriate measures to protect the child, according to the provisions of the 10 Law, within a period not exceeding twenty-four (24) hours after receiving the complaint. The child protection

Professionals shall take the following preventive measures after obtaining the approval of the agency to which they report: -

- Merge the child with the programs and activities that support the child against any problems or challenges the child encounters.
- Ensure the child and the family acquire the necessary skills for dealing with the problems through training courses and workshops.
- Coordinate with the relevant bodies to take the necessary measures for ensuring the protection of the child's rights and safety. - Guide and inform the child of potential dangers and risks related to certain activities that the child may continue to undertake.

Evaluation

This Policy shall be reviewed and developed periodically to ensure the efficiency of the child protection procedures and practices through the following measures:

1. Follow up the application of the Policy by the school within the limits of its competence.
2. Follow up any updates from the Ministry and the relevant bodies after the evaluation of the applicability of the policy and its impact on the student, family, schools, and society.

Definitions

Ministry:	Ministry of Education
Child:	Every human born alive and is not yet eighteen years old.
Student	Every student enrolled in an educational institution including children with determination or with special needs.
Abuse:	Every action or inaction which could cause any injury or harm to the child prevents the proper, secure, and healthy upbringing and growth of the child.
Partners and Supporting Service Provider	All the Government and private institutions concerned with protecting the child and which provide social and psychological support services, shelter for the child, financial, logistic, media and health support for educational institutions
Moral Obligation	A set of values and moral principles that are in line with Islam, morality, identity and prevalent culture in the Emirati society, which reveres other religions.
Child Neglect	Failure by the parents or caregiver to take the necessary measures to protect the child's life, and physical, psychological, mental and moral health and safety against danger, and failure to protect his/her different rights
Child Caregiver	Person duly responsible for the child or entrusted to take care of the child
Violence against Child	Deliberate use of force against any child by any individual or group causing actual harm to the child's health or growth, or threatening the child's survival
Child's Best Interest	Giving the child's interest the first consideration and the best priority in all circumstances irrespective of the interests of other parties