



Safeguarding at KIS

Responsibility of Care

KIS teachers and administrators have a responsibility to protect children and to act as their advocates in cases of suspected child abuse. In all decisions, the protection and safety of the child will remain the foremost concern. All KIS teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff who work directly with children are required to report suspected neglect, physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse to the DSL. In response to suspected abuse, the school will take all reasonable, responsible and legal steps to protect the child.

Child Protection Procedures

Child abuse and neglect are of growing concern in schools throughout the world. They are violations of a child's human rights and obstacles to the child's educational, physical, emotional, and spiritual development. Schools fill a special institutional role in society as protectors of children, and must 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 who need help and protection. As such, they 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.

KIS, in keeping with our core values and mission statement, has adopted a child protection protocol to guide our staff and families in matters related to the health, safety and care of children attending our school. We endorse the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), of which Malaysia is a signatory, and seeks to be a safe haven for children who may be experiencing abuse or neglect in any aspect of their lives. In addition to the UNCRC, the KIS child protection protocol is based on the Child Act 2001. Within the Child Act 2001, it states that:

A child is in need of care and protection if:

- (a) The child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or emotionally injured or sexually abused by his parent or guardian or a member of his extended family;
- (b) The child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or emotionally injured or sexually abused and his parent or guardian, knowing of such injury or abuse or risk, has not protected or is unlikely to protect the child from such injury or abuse;
- (c) The parent or guardian of the child is unfit, or has neglected, or is unable, to exercise proper supervision and control over the child and the child is falling into bad association;



- (d) The parent or guardian of the child has neglected or is unwilling to provide for them adequate care, food, clothing and shelter;
- (e) The child— (i) has no parent or guardian; or 28 Laws of Malaysia ACT 611 (ii) has been abandoned by his parent or guardian and after reasonable inquiries the parent or guardian cannot be found.

A criminal offence is committed if:

“Any person who, being a person having the care of a child;

- (a) Abuses, neglects, abandons or exposes the child in a manner likely to cause him physical or emotional injury or causes or permits him to be so abused, neglected, abandoned or exposed; or
- (b) Sexually abuses the child or causes or permits him to be so abused”

“Any person who, being a parent or a guardian or a person for the time being having the care of a child, leaves that child

- (a) Without making reasonable provision for the supervision and care of the child;
- (b) For a period which is unreasonable having regard to all the circumstances; or
- (c) Under conditions which are unreasonable having regard to all the circumstances”

All staff employed at KIS must report suspected incidences of child abuse or neglect whenever there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a child has suffered, or is at 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 protocol. Furthermore, cases of suspected child abuse or neglect may be reported to the appropriate child protection agency in the home country and/or to local authorities.

In enrolling a child at KIS, parents agree to work in partnership with the school and abide by the protocols adopted by KIS. Our community genuinely values our partnership with parents in providing for the safety and care of all children. It is for this reason that KIS endorses a child protection protocol that defines the standards through which all KIS children should be treated with respect and dignity at all times. As part of our overall educational programmes and specific to our shared responsibility to educate children, to protect them, and to learn and grow in a safe environment, KIS:

- Provides age appropriate lessons to help children understand personal safety, needs and rights;
- Provide parents with materials to help them better understand our programmes and protocols;
- Annually trains all staff to recognise and report issues of abuse and neglect; and
- Makes every effort to implement hiring practices to ensure the safety of children.



We work together with parents to ensure that our children are safe and are knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities to themselves and to each other, so that they can grow and learn free of fear in a safe and supportive environment.

Definitions of Abuse

Definitions of abuse are complex. There is not a single definition that encompasses the term abuse in its entirety due to the fact that there are so many different types of abuse and so many factors involved. Abuse can be both an act and a failure to act.