Policy	**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**
Date Published	**30th March 2024**
Evaluation	**26th October 2024**
Review	**August 2025**
Rationale	The safety and well-being of students are paramount at the International Indian School Abu Dhabi. This Safeguarding Policy aims to ensure a safe and secure environment where students can thrive academically and personally, free from harm. With the growing complexities in education, particularly in safeguarding students from physical, emotional, and digital risks, it is essential to have clear policies and procedures in place. The policy reflects the commitment of the school to uphold students' rights, promote their welfare, and comply with relevant national and international standards, including the Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 concerning child rights.
Roles & Responsibility	**Principal, SLT, OSH Officer, Inclusion Head, Counselling Team, Staff, Parents, Visitors & Contractors**
Vision of International Indian School	**Vision:** To create a nurturing, inclusive, and safe learning environment that empowers students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally, while promoting respect, responsibility, and global citizenship. **Mission** • To provide high-quality education that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and resilience. • To ensure the holistic development of students by prioritizing their safety, health, and well-being. • To maintain an environment where students are respected, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. • To engage parents, teachers, and the wider community in safeguarding practices that protect every student.

Policy Statement:

The International Indian School Abu Dhabi is committed to providing a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for all students. This Safeguarding Policy outlines the school's approach to protecting students from harm, including physical, emotional, and digital risks. It ensures that all staff, visitors, and parents understand their responsibilities in safeguarding students and maintaining a positive and safe school environment. The school implements robust procedures to monitor student safety, prevent maltreatment, and act promptly if any concerns arise.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to
- Ensure the safety and protection of all students.
- Provide clear guidelines for staff, visitors and parents.
- Establish accountability for safeguarding procedures.
- Define procedures for managing security risks and breaches.
- Outline training requirements for staff to maintain a safe school environment.

2. Safeguarding Responsibilities

- **Staff Responsibility:** Every staff member is responsible for ensuring the safety and welfare of students.
- **Principal's Role:** The principal ensures that the school fulfills its duty of care to students.
- **Safeguarding Committee or Lead:** OSH Officer, Inclusion Head, Counselling, and SLT.

3. Visitor and Access Control

- All visitors must sign in and show a valid ID to access the school.
- Regular visitors (e.g., parents) may have permanent access passes (QR code verification) but must still be verified.
- Security guards monitor the premises to ensure unauthorized people cannot enter.

4. School Arrival and Departure

- Only pre-approved individuals, verified via QR code, may pick up students.
- Parents must inform the school in advance if another person will collect their child, with third person **Emirates Identification Card** (EID) and provide their QR code for verification.
- Older students (Cycle 3) may arrive or leave unaccompanied with parental consent, and their departure will be verified through the school's exit slip system.
- The school supervises students 45 minutes before and 90 minutes after school hours. Outside of these times, parents are responsible for their child's safety.
- Students leaving early will need to follow the early exit slip system, where parents must call in advance and provide confirmation for their child's early departure.
- **Late Arrival Tracker**: The school will track late arrivals to ensure students are accounted for. Parents must notify the school if their child will be arriving late, and students will be marked accordingly upon arrival.

5. Special Events and Security

- During events, only immediate family (parents and siblings) may attend, and guests must pre-register.
- The school will enhance security measures during large events to ensure safety.

6. Digital and Privacy Safeguarding

- The school ensures the privacy of students, staff, and parents, especially in digital spaces (e.g., emails, social media) and in public areas (e.g., reception).
- A clear process is in place to handle security breaches, including staff training, lockdown procedures, and data backup.

7. Training and Awareness

- All staff receive safeguarding training to identify and address signs of harm, report concerns, and respond appropriately.

8. Whistleblowing

- The school has a confidential whistleblowing system that allows staff and others to report concerns about safety, ethics, or misconduct without fear of retaliation.

9. Inclusion and Support

- The Safeguarding Committee works with the Wellbeing and Inclusion Committees to provide additional support for students with special educational needs or those requiring accommodation.

10. Compliance and Accountability

- All staff and stakeholders must comply with this policy. Non-compliance may result in legal consequences and any breaches must be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Conclusion:

By following this safeguarding policy, we aim to create a safe, supportive and respectful environment where every student can thrive and develop. This policy is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that it continues to meet the highest standards of student safety and welfare.