



The
British School
of Monaco

POLICY SECTION: Section 5 - PASTORAL

POLICY NUMBER: 5.01

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

EFFECTIVE FROM: 13/VII/22

REVIEW DATE: Summer 2023

The British School of Monaco

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

The Mission of The British School of Monaco is to provide Monaco families with a British curriculum school that offers a nurturing community and an innovative learning environment, enabling students to evolve into their best authentic selves.

The Vision of The British School of Monaco is to create an exceptional educational environment in which students are nurtured to become authentic individuals, and reflective, resilient and adaptive learners. Our teachers are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, innovative teaching, and helping students reach their full potential.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child contends that all children have an inalienable right to protection from harm, and states that the welfare of the child is of paramount consideration. However, despite these aspirations, there are sadly, occasions when this does not occur. Child abuse can manifest itself in a wide variety of ways, e.g. physical, emotional, and sexual or through severe neglect. Abuse of all kinds occurs right across the social spectrum. Although the signs of child abuse are well documented, many of the symptoms taken in isolation can occur in situations where no abuse is occurring, will occur or has ever occurred. Many of these signs may also be indications of other medical, social or psychological problems, or simply normal child development. Staff therefore need to be very careful and thoughtful in ascertaining whether abuse is suspected. The large numbers of signs and symptoms described in this policy need to be considered in the light of normal child development, e.g.:

- Temper tantrums are to be expected from a two year old but may be a sign of serious distress in a child of 10;
- An interest in sexual topics and members of the opposite sex is to be expected in a young teenager but in a six year-old, such behaviour may well be cause for concern.

SECTION 2 - AIMS

- We aim to provide an atmosphere which encourages pupils to feel confident that they can confide in staff about any issues that concern them.

- To allow staff to become familiar and confident with the appropriate child protection procedures and issues. This policy and its associated procedures are intended to give clear guidance to all staff, teaching and non-teaching on:
 - (a) The signs that may indicate the possibility of abuse.
 - (b) What actions need to follow should a child disclose abuse, or a member of staff suspects abuse.
- To monitor any child who has been identified 'at risk'.
- To review the school's procedures and improve the way child protection issues are managed.

OBJECTIVES

- We provide support and guidance so that the pupils have a range of appropriate adults whom they feel confident to approach if they are in difficulties.
- We use our contact time with the children to raise pupils' awareness and build confidence, so that they have a range of strategies to ensure their own protection and understand the importance of protecting others.
- Staff treat all children with respect and all pupils are expected to treat each other and staff similarly.
- We are aware of the role models that the school offers pupils through staffing, materials used, selection of curricular content and other experiences.
- We try to impress on pupils the importance of rejecting violence as a means of resolving conflict.
- We make our students aware of factors which affect their personal safety.
- We operate a system of safe recruitment.
- We review and evaluate our school policies and practices on an annual basis.

Each member of staff is expected to be familiar with the school's Child Protection Policy and associated procedures, accepts their duty to implement them and act upon them when appropriate.

Pupil records are kept centrally and securely, and the school maintains sound policies on confidentiality.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed according to the school's policy review schedule or when the need arises by relevant staff, the Principal and the Governing Body, taking account of students' opinions and concerns, and parental views where appropriate.