

# Pakistan Islamia Higher Secondary School, Sharjah



## **CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**(Academic Year 2024-2025)**



## Rationale

PIHSS ensures a safe and secure environment for all individuals in compliance with the Ministry of Education (MOE) UAE and provides a framework to protect children from any maltreatment or any sort of physical and mental harm that hinders their best learning outcomes. Our school believes that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility as well as to ensure the satisfactory development and growth of every child.

### 1. Important Contacts

#### School Counselor

Contact Email	Bisma.humaira@pihss-shj.com
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#### Health and Safety Officer

Contact email	Mumtaz.akbar@pihss-shj.com
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#### Authorized School Doctor

Contact email	Bakhtawar.fareed@pihss-shj.com
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#### Vice Principal

Contact email	faiza.faisal@pihss-shj.com
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### 2. Definition of Safeguarding in PIHSS

Safeguarding and protecting the children involves:

- Protecting children from any maltreatment inside or outside the school including online maltreatment
- Protecting children from mental and physical health issues such as impairment
- Ensuring that every child understands that they can report their concerns to any staff member
- Protecting children from neglect, abuse, and exploitation within or outside the classroom

### 3. Legislative Safeguarding of Children

The school is committed to recognizing diversity and ensures anti-discriminatory practices. Federal Law No. 3 (Wadeema's) emphasizes that all children must be provided with appropriate living standards, access to health

services, education, and equal opportunities without any discrimination. The digression of all these fundamental child rights is subjected to imprisonment and fine or both. Federal Law No.3 allows childcare specialists to remove children from their homes if they are kept against their will or in danger. The law ensures the protection of all kinds of physical and psychological abuse to children. The UAE Government Official Portal 2020, applies this law to children who are above the age of 18.

### Types of Child Abuse

Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect
-Hitting	-telling a child, they are worthless	-inappropriate physical contact	- inadequate food
-Throwing	-forcefully silencing them	-assault	-inadequate or unhygienic clothing
-Burning	-making fun	-bad touching	-inadequate supervision
-Scalding	-serious bullying	-showing inappropriate images	-unresponsiveness to the child's basic needs
-Violently shaking	-feelings of being unloved	-encouraging others for inappropriate act	-inadequate medical care
-suffocating			

### 4. Child Safeguarding Responsibilities of the School Staff

PIHSS recognizes the safeguarding of every child and emphasizes that all staff members are equally aware of their responsibilities to ensure children's safety. Every staff member who is in contact with children and the parents has a role to play in safeguarding children. The staff responsibilities include:

- Developing self-esteem and resilience in the school curriculum and the children
- Early help assessment process for a child and identifying the emerging problem
- Educating children about different types of abuses and their fundamental rights
- Educating children about online harm or sexual exploitation that are the risk indicators of a child's physical and mental health
- Promoting a safe and caring atmosphere throughout the school
- Recognizing and timely identifying the children who are in dire need of help
- Becoming aware that mental health issues can be a significant indicator of abuse or neglect
- Communicating all concerns and keeping written records of concerns, even when there is a lack of evidence
- Becoming aware of the peer-to-peer abuse and serious violence that can cause fatal consequences

### Online Safety of Children through Four Cs

Online safety can be categorized into four ways in which the school maintains its safety and safeguarding possible. The school identifies the root causes and provides early help to secure the child from any imminent danger.

Content	Contact	Conduct	Commerce
-Involvement in any kind of illegal, inappropriate and harmful content	-online interaction with peers and other groups that promote exploitation	-protection of personal conduct and behavior that increases the	-involvement in online gambling or financial illegal activities

		element of harming oneself and others	
-Involvement in suicidal or extreme actions	-Interest in such commercial advertising that shadows the mind and takes away the child from the real world	-sharing offensive and slang language with others through implicit messages that cause anger	-Involvement in advertising unacceptable content to cause problems for others' safety and security
-Interest in such content that shows self-harm	-Involving in such online groups that increase the element of criminal activities	-Sharing inappropriate images and causing others' respect at stake	-Using online advertising to mock others and their opinions and views
-Interest in radical views that cause stir and violence within or outside the premises	-Involving in such online groups that increase the element of illegal financial gains	-involved in online bullying behavior that can harm others and can be life-threatening for some	-Involvement in money scams and frauds to cause financial loss for others

## 5. Empathy for Children

PIHSS ensures that children feel secure to confide in teachers and other safety support staff. The overall environment of the school propagates an empathetic sense toward children in times of need. This consideration and empathy procedure include:

- ✓ Listening carefully and uncritically
- ✓ Reassuring that they are right to tell and share at the right time
- ✓ Keep a record of what has been shared
- ✓ Investigating the possible causes of abuse
- ✓ Investigating the accused and considering their views regarding blame
- ✓ Consulting other children who faced similar situations previously
- ✓ Making sure that the child is physically and mentally ok
- ✓ Consulting with other support staff and looking at different perspectives
- ✓ Making a final decision of what restorative measures can be implemented

## 6. If a Child Discloses some personal information to the Teacher

- Listen and believe them
- Keep their identity confidential but not to promise as you may need to disclose it to solve the matter
- Support the child with every possible effort that you offer at that time
- Monitor the situation as well as the mental condition of the child at that moment
- Consult with the head or DSL team to take continued measures and support the child



## B. Body Map for Reporting

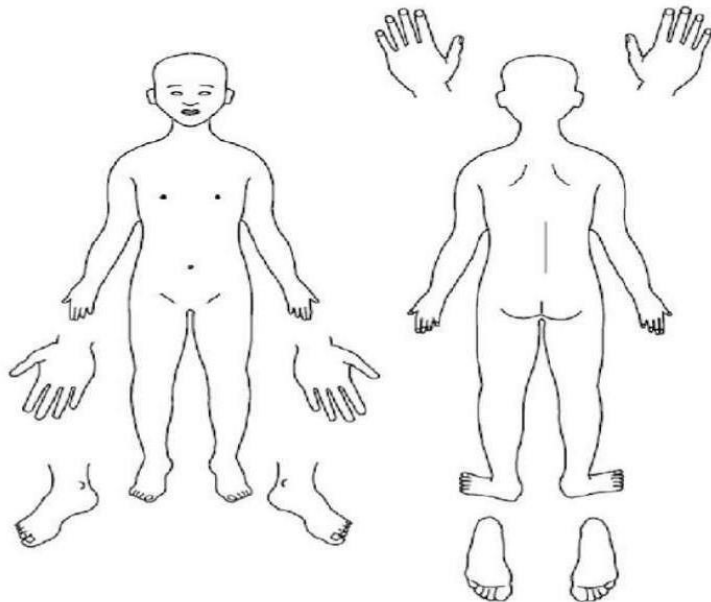


**Pakistan Islamia Higher Secondary School Sharjah**  
Body map for reporting

<b>Name of student:</b>	
<b>Class:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Gender:</b>	
<b>Name &amp; designation of reporting person:</b>	
<b>Date &amp; time of recording:</b>	

Indicate site of injury or concerning marks using a cross on the relevant area of the body map. Provide additional detail/description in the space provided in the table underneath. Once completed, please pass on to the Section head.

<p><u>Additional detail/description</u></p>
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<b>Signature of the Principal:</b>	
<b>Signature of school Doctor:</b>	
<b>Signature of reporting person:</b>	

**C. Child protection Flow Chart**

