



## SAFEGUARDING AT TRILL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANGKOK

### CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

#### Policy Statement

Trill International School believes that all students have the right to:

- Be taught in a safe, secure and caring environment
- Be protected from harm including neglect, abuse and exploitation
- Be valued in terms of their gender, race, culture, language and religion
- Be treated as an individual who is empowered

In light of the above all staff at TIS have a responsibility to:

- Provide a safe, secure environment where students are protected
- Provide encouragement, stimulation and support for all students
- Enable each student to reach his or her potential

#### Definitions of Abuse

*‘Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.*

*An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.’*

*(NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children 2018)*

The following are indicators of possible abuse and/or neglect.

- Infliction of physical injury on a child other than by accidental means causing death, disfigurement, bruising, impairment of physical or emotional health or loss or impairment of any bodily function.
- Creating a substantial risk of physical harm to a child
- Committing, or allowing to be committed, any sexual offence against a child including the viewing of material suitable only for adults.
- Committing acts that are cruel or inhumane regardless of observable injury. This may include extreme discipline showing a disregard for the child’s physical or mental suffering.
- Assaulting or criminally mistreating a child.



- Engaging in actions, or omissions, which result in injury or create a substantial risk to the physical or mental health or development of the child.

There is no need to have any details of any possible abuse to report a concern. Should a member of staff have any reasonable cause to believe that a child may have suffered abuse then they should report this concern directly to the appointed Child Protection Officer:

Primary School: Mrs Michelle Massey / Principal Mr Gordon Espley Jones

Secondary School: Head of Student Welfare—Mr Paul Anders / Head of Secondary Mr Barry Stockton

The severity of an injury, statements made by the student (or other parties) as to the non-accidental nature of an injury or a marked change in mood of the student may all indicate possible abuse.

## Indicators of abuse

### Indicators of Physical Abuse may include:

- Unexplained bruises or marks on any part of the body
- Injuries reflecting shape of object used to inflict harm
- Injuries which regularly appear after absence or vacation
- Unexplained burns
- Immersion burns
- Unexplained lacerations
- Injuries inconsistent with information offered by the child

### Indicators of Sexual Abuse may include:

- Evidence of trauma to the oral, genital or anal areas
- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Refusing to change into gym clothes
- Venereal disease in a child of any age
- Sexual knowledge, behaviour or use of language inappropriate to age level

### Indicators of neglect may include:

- The child comes to school smelly and dirty
- They have unwashed or inadequate clothing
- Untreated injuries
- Missed medical appointments
- Faltering weight or growth -not reaching developmental milestones (failure to thrive)
- Poor language, communication or social skills



- Being left alone for long periods of time

### **Indicators of emotional abuse:**

There often aren't any obvious physical signs of emotional abuse (or neglect) but you may spot signs in a child's actions or emotions. Note, however, that changes in emotion are a normal part of growing up, so it can be really difficult to tell if a child is being emotionally abused.

Younger, pre-school children may:

- Be overly affectionate to strangers or people they have not known for long
- Have a lack of confidence or feel overanxious
- Not appear to have a close relationship with their parents
- Be aggressive or nasty towards other children or animals

Older children may:

- Use language or know things that you wouldn't expect for their age
- Struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts
- Seem isolated from their parents
- Lack social skills or have few, if any, friends
- Feel under more than 'normal' academic pressure

### **Procedural Guidelines**

**Trusted Adults-** All adults working regularly in the school are considered trusted adults.

All staff should wear their identity badge and all visitors should wear a visitor badge.

A child may share any worries or concerns with a trusted adult who should then follow the Reporting Guidelines as shown below.

Any member of staff should act appropriately in the company of children and not place themselves in situations that may be misunderstood.

### **Reporting guidelines for the teacher**

The role of the 'reporter' is not to investigate or verify the situation. Any suspected incidents of abuse/neglect must be passed on to the CPO.

Notification of abuse or neglect is required when "A person suspects on reasonable grounds that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected"

Anyone aware of such a situation must report it to the relevant Child Protection Officer.



Secondary Mr. Paul

Primary Miss Michelle

(Mr. Barry/Mr. Gordon EJ)

Should a child share any concerns or worries with the adult they should:

- Reassure the child that it is okay to say what has happened
- Let the child know that they will have your support
- Project a calm, supportive attitude
- Explain to the child that you may have to tell someone else, who will help support the child, if you feel that what they say would indicate that they are at risk
- Do not make any promises to the child
- Re-assure the child that it is not 'his/her fault'
- Report the conversation, in as much detail as possible, to the CPO as soon as possible. Make clear detailed notes to enable this process
- Respect the privacy of the child by not informing anyone else in, or out of school. It will be the decision of the CPO which people need to be aware on a 'need to know' basis
- After reporting please continue to support the child. You are the person they trusted to tell

If the suspected offender is an employee, then that person will be seen by the Principal or Owner and may be removed from any situation likely to cause distress to the student concerned. If necessary, this will then be passed on to the Board of Directors/Police for further investigation.

### **Procedure for vetting of staff**

On application for employment at Traill the Principal will need to see relevant documentation (CRB/DBS, Police clearance etc.) to validate the suitability of candidates.

## **Follow up**

### **Checklist for disclosure follow up.**

**Determine the risk for re-offense – What? Who? When Where?**

**If the offense is ongoing and the child lives with the offender –** What immediate actions can be taken to help protect the child? Who will you contact? Non-offending parent? The Authorities?

Listen to as much as the child wants to tell you. Do not push the child for details, make assumptions or lead the child.

Explore the feelings and concerns which the child has about the experience – maybe guilt, shame, fear, anger.

Agreed 02/12/2018

Review date 01/12/2019



Affirm that the experience was not their fault and that feeling these emotions is perfectly natural. Work with the child to put those feelings within a healthy limit so they are not overwhelmed by them.

Explore the avenues of support available for the child – Parent? Friend? Trusted Adult? Etc

Make sure that the child knows what to do if an ‘assault’ is attempted or occurs again

- Say NO – or run to somewhere safe
- Tell someone – ask the child to specify safe confidantes

Any child abuse reports should be kept confidential and on a ‘need to know’ basis.

These records should be kept by the relevant CPO in a locked cabinet.

## **Health and safety in and out of school**

Trails International School believes that all students have the right to:

- Be taught in a safe, secure and caring environment

### **Teachers on duty**

Primary and secondary staff have a duty rota to follow and should be at their designated place at the appointed time. If a member of staff is absent, then reserve staff for that day will take their place.

It is important for staff to be pro-active whilst on duty. Many problems can be pre-empted and not allowed to escalate if staff are taking an active role.

### **First aid trained staff**

There are a number of first aid trained staff in the school. These are across the various areas of the school.

In most minor first aid cases, however, students can make their way, or be escorted to, the school nurse. Their teacher should be informed first wherever possible.

Please note that any head injury should be directly referred to the nurse.

### **Crossing the road**

Guards are on duty to stop traffic when crossing the road. Children from Lower Primary will be crossed by their teacher.



## **Entrance Gates**

The 3 main entrance gates are all card controlled. Only authorised staff have access.

These areas are also manned by security staff.

## **Risk assessment for visits**

Leaders of visits need to follow certain guidelines. Initial permission should be gained from the Principal. If on any residential visit the Risk Assessment has to be with Mr Paul/Primary Head six weeks before the visit.

## **School nurse**

Any student visiting the school nurse, *except in emergency*, needs to have permission in the form of a Medical slip signed by their teacher.

## **First Day Phone Calls**

When a student is absent, and no notification has been received, the School Office will make contact that morning to enquire as to the nature of the absence.

## **Electronic contact staff/student**

Any contact between staff and students should not use personal email addresses. Such items such as homework should be submitted via the school portal system.

## **Fire safety**

Regular fire drills take place in the school and all classrooms have direction notices to the nearest fire exits in case of fire. Numerous extinguishers are in key positions around the school.