



THE BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Child Protection: Policy & Procedures

Policy and Procedures on Child Protection

We in TBIS have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we will carry out this duty through our Pastoral Care practice, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities, in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

All our staff have been subject to appropriate background checks and they have adopted our Code of Practice for their behaviour towards pupils.

The purpose of the following procedures on Child Protection is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school - teaching and non-teaching staff - has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The over-riding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child, and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration.

The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school.

What is Child Abuse?

We use the following definition:

Neglect:

The persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical:

Physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Sexual:

The sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification; the involvement of children or young people in sexual activities of any kind (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family values.

Emotional:

Persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child.

Bullying

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school. All our staff are vigilant to the possibility of bullying occurring and take steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to deal with the bully.

Cyber bullying:

Involves the use of ICT technologies such as e-mail, mobile phones, internet social sites, chat-rooms etc, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others. Under no circumstances will cyber bullying be tolerated.

Procedures for reporting suspected (or disclosed) child abuse:

The designated teacher for Child Protection is
Mr. Tobias Oyugi, assistant designated teachers are
Mrs. E. Ayuk and Mr. Enongene.

If a child makes a disclosure to a teacher or other member of staff which gives rise to concerns about a child, **the member of staff will act promptly.**

He/she will not investigate - this is a matter for the Child Social Services - but will report these concerns immediately to the designated teacher, discuss the matter with him and make full notes.

The designated teacher will discuss the matter with the Headteacher as a matter of urgency to plan a course of action, and ensure that a written record is made.

The Headteacher, in consultation with the designated teacher, will decide whether, in the best interests of the child, the matter needs to be referred to Child Social Services. **If there are concerns that the child may be at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral.** Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, the parents will be informed immediately.

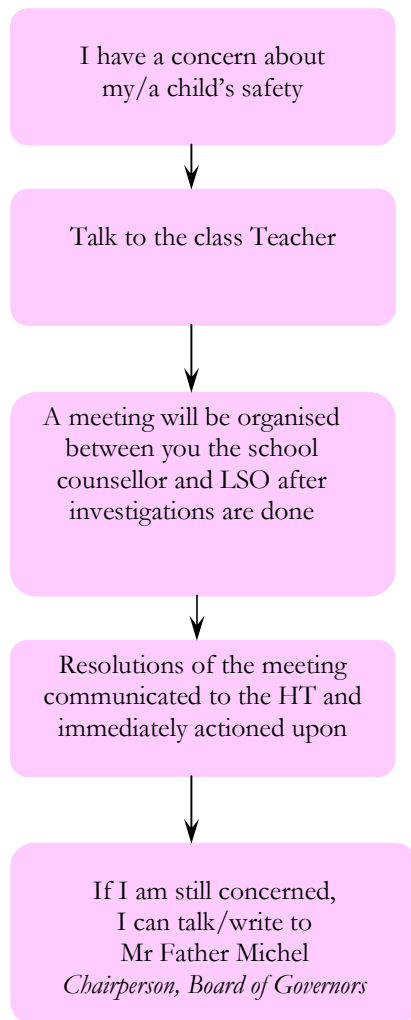
The Headteacher may seek clarification or advice and consult with the Designated Officer or the Local Social Worker before a referral is made. No decision to refer a case to Social Services will be made without the fullest consideration and on the appropriate advice. The safety of the child is our first priority.

Where there are concerns about possible abuse, the Headteacher will inform:

- Social Services
- Designated Officer for Child Protection
- Assistant Designated Officer(s)

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

How a parent can make a complaint:



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