

## Child Protection:

In light of the vital role that the school plays in the life of a child, our school has a child protection responsibility towards the children under their supervision. Our responsibility does not fall short on the reactive interventions, but rather preventative as well by using precautionary education and activities. In accordance with article (2) of the Child Law under The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the term “child” indicates all individuals who have not reached the age of eighteen. This is verified through the child’s birth certificate, an identification card, or any other official document. Moreover, article (3) ensures the following principles and rights to children:

- a) The right of the child to life, survival, and development in a supportive family environment, to enjoy various preventive measures, and to be protected from all forms of violence, or injury, or physical, mental or sexual abuse, or negligence, or negligent treatment, or any other forms of maltreatment or exploitation.
- b) The right to be protected from all forms of discrimination among children, on the basis of birth place, parents, sex, religion, race, disability, or on any other status, and ensure equal opportunities among children to benefit from all rights.
- c) The right of the child who is able to form his own opinions, to access information which empowers him to form and express such opinions, and to be heard in all matters related to him, including judicial and administrative procedures, in accordance with the procedures specified by the Law.

Noting the aforementioned, the school adheres to the following regulations:

- a) All staff and faculty go through a criminal record check to ensure safety in the school environment
- b) The school holds a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) approach to promote school safety and good behavior
- c) The school policies entail zero tolerance for bullying
- d) The school retains complete confidentiality over the students’ records unless requested by the student’s legal guardian
- e) The school trains its staff and faculty on how to identify abuse
- f) All efforts are made to work co-operatively with parents, unless doing so is inconsistent with ensuring the child’s safety

## Child Abuse:

Students who are the victims of abuse often display emotional or behavioral difficulties which may be identified in the school setting. The types of abuse include the following:

- a) Neglect: the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development.
- b) Physical Abuse: deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child
- c) Sexual Abuse: when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology).
- d) Emotional Abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development
- e) Exploitation: the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labor, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking.

Noting the aforementioned, the school adheres to the following regulations:

- a) The school provides training for its staff and faculty in identifying abuse
- b) Children have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously, taking account of their age and understanding
- c) Children in question should be involved in all matters and decisions which may affect their lives
- d) The school would provide necessary accommodations and interventions to provide a safe environment for the child within its capabilities
- e) The school retains utmost confidentiality of what is discussed by the child in question, unless inquired for by an official authority