

Al Sadiq Islamic English School Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy



| Policy Name | Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy 2025-26 |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Stakeholder | All staff, students, and parents |
| Policy Directory Reference | Al Sadiq Islamic English School |
| Policy Lead | Vice Principal - Ms.Aisha Thasneem, Ms.Georgina Drake |
| Reviewed by | Mr. Julian Williams |
| Approved by | Ms. Sadia Wajid – Principal |
| Approved Date | September 2025 |
| Monitoring Cycle | Annually |

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Clearly state the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.
- Outline procedures and routines to ensure consistency across the school.
- Maintain an inclusive ethos where every child feels safe and valued.
- Ensure compliance with UAE regulations, including Wadeema's Law (Federal Law No. 3 of 2016), KHDA, and SPEA inspection frameworks.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents, volunteers, and visitors across all departments and phases of the school.

Policy Statement

- Every child, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability, or beliefs, has the right to protection.
- We recognise our duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in our care.
- We provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment that supports each child's wellbeing, academic growth, and personal development.

Safeguarding Principles

- **Wellbeing First** promoting physical, emotional, and social safety.
- Listening to Children all students must know they are heard and taken seriously.
- **Fairness & Non-Discrimination** zero tolerance for abuse, bullying, intimidation, harassment, or neglect.
- Awareness & Education providing safeguarding education for students, staff, and families.
- Prevention & Early Intervention proactive measures to identify and respond to risks quickly.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Al Sadiq Islamic English School is the Principal.
- Deputy DSLs are appointed from the Senior Leadership Team and the Inclusion/Wellbeing Department.
- The current list of DSLs and Deputy DSLs, along with their contact details, is:
 - Displayed on safeguarding posters around the school.
 - Available on the staff noticeboard.
 - o Shared with parents through official school communications.

This ensures that all members of the school community — staff, students, and parents — know who to approach in case of a safeguarding concern.

Legal & Regulatory Framework

This policy is guided by:

- UAE Law & Guidance:
 - o Wadeema's Law (Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 on children's rights).
 - KHDA & SPEA inspection frameworks.
 - o Community Development Authority (CDA) guidelines.
- International References (for benchmarking):
 - o Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, UK).
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children.
 - Guidance for Safer Working Practice.
 (See Appendix 2 & 5 for full reference notes.)

Safeguarding in School

All staff are expected to:

- Remain vigilant for signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or radicalisation.
- Build positive and trusting relationships with students.
- Follow clear reporting procedures
- Provide extra safeguarding support for Early Years, recognising their increased vulnerability.

Child Protection Concerns

The school recognises four primary categories of abuse :

- 1. Neglect
- 2. Physical abuse
- 3. Sexual abuse
- 4. Emotional abuse

Children may experience more than one type of abuse. All concerns must be recorded and referred to the DSL/DDSL immediately.

Roles & Responsibilities

Staff:

- Remain alert to signs of abuse or neglect.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL/DDSL.
- Maintain confidentiality and professionalism.

DSL/DDSL:

Lead safeguarding practice and training.

- Keep secure, confidential records.
- Liaise with parents, KHDA, Dubai Police, CDA, and other agencies.
- Ensure annual review of this policy.

Principal:

- Ensure policy implementation and compliance.
- Allocate resources for safeguarding.
- Promote a culture of accountability and vigilance.

Procedures

- **Reporting**: Concerns or disclosures must be reported immediately to the DSL.
- Response: DSL will assess risk and liaise with authorities as required.
- **Confidentiality**: No promise of secrecy to students; staff must explain reporting obligations.
- Allegations Against Staff: Report directly to DSL/Principal; if against the Principal, escalate to Athena Governing Body/Athena Management.

Staff Conduct

- Physical punishment is strictly prohibited.
- Safe physical contact must follow the Positive Handling & Safe Touch Policy.
- ICT use must comply with the ICT Acceptable Use Policy.
- Staff must follow Athena's Employee Handbook & Code of Conduct.

Recruitment & Vetting

All new staff undergo:

- Police clearance/Good Conduct Certificate.
- Reference checks.
- MOHRE/KHDA registration.

Safety of Premises & Transport

- Secure entry/exit with guards and CCTV.
- RTA-licensed buses with trained drivers and bus nannies.
- Supervision protocols for school trips

Distance Learning Safeguarding

- Online classes must only use approved school platforms.
- One-to-one sessions require parental awareness and safeguarding measures.
- Recordings stored securely on school servers.

Whistleblowing

Staff must report concerns about poor practice, unsafe behaviour, or suspected abuse by colleagues to the DSL/Principal. Concerns about the Principal must be raised with Athena's Designated Personnel.

Reporting & Escalation

- All safeguarding concerns follow the reporting flow.
- Immediate referrals go to Dubai Police, CDA, or KHDA if risk of harm exists.
- Parents are informed only where appropriate and safe to do so.

Suspension & Investigations

• Suspension of staff is a neutral act, not an assumption of guilt.

- Alternatives (different duties, additional supervision) are considered.
- Investigations involve KHDA, Dubai Police, and CDA as required.

Staff Training

- All staff receive safeguarding induction training before working with students.
- DSL/DDSLs undergo refresher training regularly.
- · Training logs are maintained.

Monitoring & Review

- This policy is reviewed annually.
- Safeguarding practices are monitored through audits, learning walks, and CPD evaluations.

Approval and Sign-Off:

Approved by: Ms. Sadia Wajid Signature: [Insert Signature]

Date: September 2025

Review Date: August 2026

Appendices

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy – Appendix Pack

(Aligned with UAE Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 "Wadeema's Law", KHDA/SPEA requirements, and UAE Data Protection Law)

Appendix 1: Safeguarding Principles, UAE Child Protection Laws & Wadeema's Law Overview

Wadeema's Law

Wadeema's Law (Federal Law 3/2016) guarantees children's rights to safety, health, education, and protection from all forms of abuse.

• All staff must know:

- No child may be physically, emotionally, or sexually abused.
- Neglect, bullying, racial abuse, harassment, or intimidation are reportable offences.
- o Reporting is mandatory failure to report can result in legal liability.

Core principles:

- Best interest of the child is paramount.
- o Equality, non-discrimination, and fairness.
- Confidentiality balanced with duty to report.

Federal Decree Law No. 5 of 2012 – Combatting Cybercrimes What staff must know:

- Online defamation (even through emojis, voice notes, or forwarded messages) is a crime.
- Sharing or recording images, videos, or audio of students, colleagues, or parents without consent is prohibited.

- Using VPNs or attempting to bypass security systems is illegal.
- Cyberbullying, online harassment, or spreading false information can result in severe legal action.
- Teachers are role models: their personal social media use must remain professional and respectful.

Core principles:

- o Promote safe and respectful use of technology in class.
- Never share student or staff data/images online without permission.
- o Actively teach and model digital citizenship and cyber safety.
- o Report any suspected cyberbullying, online threats, or misuse immediately.
- Support students in recognising that online actions have real-world consequences.

Federal Law No. 3 of 1987 - Penal Code

What staff must know:

- Any form of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse of children is punishable by law
- Neglecting a child's basic needs (safety, food, education, emotional wellbeing) is considered a criminal offence.
- Exploiting children (e.g., for labour, begging, or inappropriate activities) is strictly forbidden.
- Teachers are legally obliged to protect students and report suspected abuse or neglect immediately.
- o Failure to act can make staff liable under the law.

Core principles:

- o Ensure a safe, supportive, and nurturing classroom environment at all times.
- Use only positive behaviour management strategies never physical discipline.
- Stay vigilant for signs of neglect, abuse, or exploitation and report promptly.
- o Prioritise the child's best interests in every decision and action.
- Maintain confidentiality but share concerns with the designated safeguarding lead.

Appendix 2: Definitions of Abuse & Neglect

- Physical abuse: hitting, burning, shaking, poisoning, suffocating.
- **Sexual abuse**: sexual activity, exploitation, pornography involvement.
- Emotional abuse: persistent criticism, humiliation, intimidation, isolation.
- Neglect: failure to provide food, shelter, supervision, medical care.
- **Cyber abuse**: online grooming, exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying.
- **Peer-on-peer abuse**: bullying, hazing, physical/sexual harassment between students.

Appendix 3: Indicators & Early Warning Signs

- **Physical**: unexplained injuries, frequent absences, poor hygiene.
- **Emotional**: withdrawal, low self-esteem, anxiety, aggression.
- **Sexual**: knowledge inappropriate to age, reluctance to change clothes, secrecy.
- Neglect: constant hunger, untreated illness, poor attendance.
- Digital abuse: excessive secrecy online, distress after device use.

Appendix 4: Procedures for Staff (When Concern Arises)

- 1. Immediate response:
 - Stay calm, listen, reassure.

- Do not promise secrecy.
- o Do not investigate yourself.

2. Record:

- o Write factual notes (who, what, when, where).
- Sign/date immediately.

3. Report:

- o Pass to DSL/DDSL the same day.
- $_{\odot}$ If urgent danger \rightarrow contact Police 999 or Child Protection Hotline 800-243.
- 4. Follow-up: DSL ensures case is logged, monitored, and escalated as required.

Records of concerns and actions must be kept securely and confidentially.

Appendix 5: Role of DSL & DDSL

- Maintain child protection file (confidential, secure).
- Liaise with Principal, KHDA, CDA, Police.
- Ensure all referrals are made promptly.
- Provide support to staff handling disclosures.
- Oversee staff training and safeguarding culture.

Appendix 6: Whistleblowing Guidance

- Staff must report unsafe practice, misconduct, or suspected abuse by colleagues.
- Reports go to Principal/DSL → escalated to CEO or Athena Education Designated Officer if needed.
- Protection for whistleblowers against retaliation.

Appendix 7: Staff Code of Conduct - Key Extracts

- Maintain professional boundaries with students.
- No physical punishment or inappropriate touch.
- Avoid one-to-one unsupervised contact (keep doors open).
- Discipline must respect dignity & self-esteem.
- Use only official school systems to communicate with students/parents.
- Do not engage in physical contact unless necessary for safety/welfare.
- Be professional in online behaviour and social media use.
- No sharing of personal numbers/social media.

Breaches → immediate disciplinary action.

Appendix 8: Positive Handling & Safe Touch

- Only use minimum reasonable force if child at risk of harm.
- Physical restraint must be logged and reported to DSL.
- Comforting distressed children must be appropriate, minimal, and respectful.

Refer to positive handling policy

Appendix 9: Safeguarding in EYFS

- Young children need additional vigilance:
 - o Greater dependency & vulnerability.
 - Cannot always articulate concerns.
- Staff must:
 - Monitor closely for developmental red flags.
 - Maintain safe adult-child ratios.
 - Ensure safe toileting & hygiene practices.

Appendix 10: Online Safety & Distance Learning Protocols

- Staff use only school-approved platforms (MS Teams, Orison).
- No private/personal communication with students.
- Parental consent required for one-to-one online sessions.
- All online lessons recorded or supervised.
- Students educated on cyber safety and responsible use.
- The use of VPNs, social media, or unauthorised apps is prohibited on school devices.

Appendix 11: Health, Safety & Supervision Standards

- Duty of care extends across:
 - o Classrooms, corridors, playgrounds, buses, trips.
- Staff must:
 - Supervise diligently.
 - Prevent access to unsafe areas.
 - Follow trip risk assessments.

Appendix 12: Recruitment & Vetting

- Pre-employment:
 - Police clearance / Good Conduct Certificate.
 - Reference checks.
 - Verification of qualifications.
- Staff sign safeguarding & confidentiality agreements.

Appendix 13: Reporting Flow & Forms

Reporting Flow & Forms

Al Sadiq Islamic English School

Safeguarding Concern Reporting Flowchart

Concern arises (staff observes incident / disclosure / risk).



Staff notes concern immediately in factual terms (no opinions).



Report to DSL / DDSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy).



DSL/DDSL assesses concern, records it, and informs Principal.



Principal & DSL/DDSL decide on internal support or referral.



External referral (if required): KHDA / CDA / Dubai Police / Child Protection Hotline.



Note: Staff should never investigate themselves — always pass concerns on to DSL/DDSL.



Safeguarding Concern Reporting Form

Confidential – To be submitted directly to DSL/DDSL

| Student Name: | | Class & Section | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------------|--|
| Date/Time of | | Location: | |
| Incident/Disclosure: | | | |
| Nature of Concern (fac | ts only, n | o opinions): | |
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| Details of Disclosure (u | se evact i | words where possible): | |
| Details of Disclosure (a | SC CAGCE | words where possible). | |
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| Names of Witnesses (if | any): | | |
| Immediate Action Take | en (if | | |
| any): | | | |
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| Reporting Staff Name 8 | § | | |
| Signature: | | | |
| Date: | | | |

Record facts only, not personal opinions. Submit the form the same day to DSL/DDSL.

Keep the matter confidential; do not discuss with others.

| For completion by DSL | | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Time and date informa received and from who | | | | | |
| Any advice sought – if i (date, time, name, role organisation, and advic | , | | | | |
| Action taken (referral t reasons. (Note time, da | _ | | - | | e staff) with |
| | | | | | |
| Were parents informed and reasons. | 1? Yes/No | | | | |
| Outcome: Record names of indivi referral (if made) | duals/agencie | es who have give | en information | regarding out | come of any |
| | | | | | |
| Where can additional in regarding child/incident (e.g. student file, serious book)? | t be found | | | | |
| Should a concern/confi be commenced if there already one? Why/Wh | e is not | | | <u>-</u> | |
| Signed: | , | | | | |
| Printed Name: | | | | | |
| Designation: | | | | | |



Body Maps

To be completed by the school nurse or medical professional where there is concernregarding physical abuse.

| Student's Name: | | | Class & Section: | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|--|-------|
| Date of Birth: | | | Date and Time of Reporting: | |
| Staff Member and I | Designation: | | | |
| Information receive | ed: | | | |
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |
| Body I | Map Right | Left | Front | Back |
| Label injury lo on body diagra using below ch | cation ams | £ 3 | ت آ | |
| Code Injury A Swelling or influ | ammation , | | $\int_{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$ | |
| B Bruising C Cuts and graze D Burns and scale E Redness/soren F Scabs and blist | ding | and Au | | 11111 |
| G Area of reporte with no visible : H Other | | | En \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ | |
| | and the second | |) , | |
| | | | | |
| Name: | | | | |
| Signature: | | | | |
| Date and time com | pleted: | | | |
| Counter Signed by I | Designated Safeguard | ding Lead | | |
| Name: | | | | |
| Date and time: | | | | |



Concerns/information reported by others external to the school

| Student's Name: | | Class & Section: | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Date of Birth: | | Date and Time of Incident: | |
| | on passed on (via letter, | | , |
| telephone, etc.)? | | | |
| Date and Time of re | eceipt of information: | | |
| Recipient (and role |) of information: | | |
| Name of caller/pro | vider of information: | | |
| Organisation/agen | cy/role: | | |
| Contact details (tel | ephone number/address/email): | | |
| Relationship to the | child/family: | | |
| Information receive | ed: | | - |
| | | | |
| Actions/Recomme | ndations for the school: | | |
| | | | |
| Outcome: | | | |
| | | | |
| Name: | | | |
| Signature: | | | |
| Date and time com | pleted: | | |
| Counter Signed by | Designated Safeguarding Lead | | |
| Name: | | | |
| Date and time: | | | |
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Appendix 14: Key Contacts (Dubai)

Dubai Police – Child Protection Hotline: 800-243
 Human Rights Dept Duty Officer: 056-6862121

• Latifa Hospital Child Welfare: 04-2193000

• Community Development Authority (CDA): 800-988

• Al Ameen Service: 800-4-888

• KHDA Safeguarding Desk – official contact as per inspection handbook

Appendix 15: Record-Keeping Protocols

- All safeguarding files kept securely (locked or encrypted).
- Retention period as per UAE law & KHDA guidelines.
- Records stored separately from academic files.
- Access restricted to Principal, DSL, DDSL.
- Disposal via secure shredding after retention period.

Appendix 16: Training Logs & CPD



Safeguarding Training Log Table

| Date | Leading Staff | Training Topic | Provider | Staff Members / | Next Review / |
|------|---------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Member | | | Target Audience | Follow up Action |
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| New staff inc | duction inc | cludes safeguard | lina hriefina. | | | | |
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| Appendix 17 | : Checklist | ts for Inspection | s & Complianc | e | | | |
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| Safeguarding | g Checklist | | | | | | |
| This checklist | | ure safeguarding | ; measures are | consiste | ently imp | olemente | d and |
| | | and accessible. | | | | | |
| _ | | contact info vis | ible in school. | | | | |
| | | s up to date. | | | | | |
| | = = | rals maintained. | | | | | |
| ☐ Risk as | sessments | s for trips. | | | | | |
| ☐ Safe re | cruitment | t evidence file. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | rding and Confident the below form | | ement fo | or Staff | | |
| | . complete | . the below form | | | | | |
| Safaguardia | g and Conf | fidentiality Agre | ement for Staf | f | | | |
| | | Safeguarding a | nd Child Protec | tion: (Pl | ease tic | k) | |
| | led CPD in | | na cinia i rotec | | | | |
| have attend | nd unders | stood the terms 5). (Please tick) | | | | nd Child P | rotection |
| have attend have read a Policy (Septe | nd unders mber 202 | 5). (Please tick) | of the updated | Safegua | arding a | | |
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Child Protection Policy links to Appendices

Main Policy

Purpose – states aims (protection, wellbeing, Appendix 1: Full explanation of Wadeema's compliance with UAE law, inclusive ethos).

volunteers.

Policy Statement – all children have right to care & protection; safe environment; nondiscrimination.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) title/roles only, no names.

UAE Legal Framework - Wadeema's Law, KHDA/SPEA requirements.

Safeguarding in School – staff vigilance, approachability, early intervention, extra care checklist (physical, emotional, sexual, for EYFS.

Child Protection Concerns – four categories of abuse.

Students' Welfare - safe environment, positive behaviour, curriculum on safe/respectful conduct.

Staff Conduct – discipline guidelines, safe touch, ICT, confidentiality.

Recruitment/Vetting - police clearance, references, MOHRE/SPEA compliance.

Safety of Premises & Transport – general statement.

Distance Learning Safeguarding - general rules.

Whistleblowing – duty to report poor practice.

Reporting & Escalation – internal, KHDA, Police.

Suspension/Investigation – principles only.

Staff Training – requirement for CPD on safeguarding.

Monitoring & Review - annual review, Board oversight.

Appendices

Law and its application in schools.

Scope – applies to all staff, students, parents, Appendix 2: Detailed safeguarding principles & legal cross-references.

> Appendix 3: Educational programmes for awareness (parent workshops, student wellbeing programmes).

Appendix 4: Poster with current DSL names, photos & contacts (updated separately). Appendix 5: International references (UK KCSIE, Working Together etc.) for benchmarking, optional.

Appendix 6: Signs of abuse & neglect neglect).

Appendix 7: How to react to disclosure staff do's & don'ts.

Appendix 8: Wellbeing programme details (anti-bullying, ICT safety, PSHE topics).

Appendix 9: Safe Touch Policy, Positive Handling Policy, ICT Policy extracts.

Appendix 10: Detailed vetting procedure checklist.

Appendix 11: Transport supervision checklist, trip policy forms.

Appendix 12: Detailed online conduct rules (video recording, one-to-one protocol).

Appendix 13: Reporting flowchart & safeguarding concern form template.

Appendix 14: Key contacts (Dubai Police, CDA, Latifa Hospital, Al Ameen hotline, etc.).

Appendix 15: Detailed

disciplinary/suspension protocols & alternatives.

Appendix 16: Training log template, CPD tracking.

Appendix 17: Record-keeping policy (confidentiality, retention periods, GDPR/UAE compliance).