



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2027-2026

1. Policy Statement

Al Rashid Al Saleh Private School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of all students. Safeguarding is a whole-school responsibility and is central to the school's vision, values, and daily practice.

The school adopts a **zero-tolerance approach** to all forms of abuse, neglect, bullying, harassment, discrimination, online harm, peer-on-peer abuse, and any threat to a student's physical, emotional, psychological, or digital safety.

This policy is aligned with **KHDA safeguarding expectations, UAE legislation, and Ministry of Education requirements**, and reflects current developments in education, including **digital learning, online platforms, and the safe and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI)**.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All students from Early Years to Grade 12
- All staff, including teaching, administrative, support staff, and volunteers
- Visitors, contractors, and external service providers

It covers all school activities, whether **on-site, off-site, online, blended, or virtual**.

3. Safeguarding Principles (KHDA-Aligned)

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All students have the right to feel safe, valued, and respected
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Students' voices are listened to and taken seriously
- Early identification and intervention reduce risk
- Confidentiality is maintained while prioritising student safety

4. Definition of Safeguarding

Safeguarding refers to all actions taken to protect students from harm, abuse, neglect, exploitation, radicalisation, or any practice that may impair their health, development, or wellbeing, and to ensure they grow up in safe and effective learning environments.

5. Types of Abuse and Harm

5.1 Abuse

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

5.2 Bullying – Zero Tolerance

The school does not tolerate any form of bullying, including:

- Physical bullying
- Verbal bullying
- Social or relational bullying
- Discriminatory bullying
- Cyberbullying

5.3 Online and Digital Safeguarding

Safeguarding includes protection from:

- Cyberbullying and online harassment
- Online grooming
- Exposure to harmful or inappropriate content
- Misuse of social media and digital platforms
- Breaches of privacy and data protection
- Identity misuse or impersonation
- Inappropriate or unsafe use of AI tools

5.4 Peer-on-Peer Abuse and Other Threats

The school recognises that safeguarding concerns may arise between students and treats peer-on-peer abuse with the same seriousness as adult-to-child abuse.

6. Safeguarding, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence

The school ensures that technology and AI are used **safely, ethically, and responsibly**.

The school:

- Educates students about **digital citizenship and online safety**
- Promotes responsible and age-appropriate use of AI
- Protects students from AI-related risks, including misinformation and digital manipulation
- Monitors digital platforms used for learning and communication
- Safeguards personal data in line with data protection requirements

7. Roles and Responsibilities

School Leadership

- Ensure safeguarding is a strategic priority
- Provide appropriate resources and training
- Ensure compliance with KHDA and MoE requirements

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Has overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection
- Receives, records, and acts upon safeguarding concerns
- Maintains confidential records
- Liaises with external agencies when required

All Staff

- Remain vigilant and proactive
- Report concerns immediately
- Maintain professional boundaries

8. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

- All concerns must be reported **immediately** to the DSL
- No concern is too small
- Students are encouraged to speak to any trusted adult
- All reports are handled confidentially and acted upon promptly

9. Anti-Bullying and Protection from Threats

The school actively prevents bullying through:

- Education and awareness
- Supervision and early intervention
- Clear procedures and appropriate sanctions

Victims are supported, and appropriate action is taken in line with school policy and KHDA expectations. Retaliation against anyone reporting a concern is strictly prohibited.

10. Safer Recruitment and Staff Conduct

- All staff undergo appropriate background checks
- Safeguarding training is mandatory
- Professional conduct is expected at all times

11. Training and Awareness

- Safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff
- Training is updated regularly to reflect emerging risks, including digital and AI-related safeguarding
- Students receive age-appropriate safeguarding education

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed **annually** or earlier if required by changes in legislation, KHDA guidance, or emerging safeguarding risks.