

Child Protection Policy

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This document outlines ISGR’s safeguarding and child protection policy. It applies to all members of the ISGR school community.

The ISGR Child Protection Policy abides by and incorporates the Swedish child protection laws which state children are respected and protected. Swedish law forbids chastising, physical abuse or any degrading treatment towards children, up to and including 18 years of age. All adults are considered mandated reporters of suspected neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse as defined by the law in Sweden and are obliged to report this to the Swedish Department of Social Welfare for further investigation in the municipality where the child officially resides. (SoL) – Chapter 14, §1, Föräldrabalken (1949:381) Chapter 1, §6 Brottsbalken (1962:700)

Aim

This policy outlines how ISGR will:

- Provide staff, students and parents with a common definition and understanding of what constitutes child abuse (physical, emotional and neglect)
- Provide procedures in case of abuse
- Ensure all staff are aware of the school’s referral procedures

Designated Safeguarding Leaders

At ISGR the Principals of each section are the Designated Safeguarding Leaders and have overall responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection in their section. The Deputy Principals of each section are the Deputy Safeguarding Leaders.

Role	Responsibilities
Chair of the Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Endorsement of policy● Ensure due process has been followed in reported cases
Head of School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approve policy and procedure● Review cases for satisfactory outcomes● Communication with board and report cases to the Chair
Principals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establish policy objectives● Develop child protection policy and procedure● Provide training for ISGR staff● Enforce policy● Report cases of discrimination and degrading treatment to the Head of School

Deputy Principals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinates and implements policy through school's departments ● Oversee training ● Receives and processes concerns from staff ● Processes individuals rights requests ● Ensures the right to privacy about concerns ● Ensures the right to confidential communications ● Ensures the right to file a complaint or concern
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Definitions and indicators of different types of abuse

Child Abuse:

This includes all forms of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation and includes any actions that result in actual or potential harm to a child. Child abuse maybe deliberate but can also include failure to act to prevent abuse happening. Please note that child abuse is not restricted to adult to child abuse but also can be peer to peer abuse.

General Indicators of Possible Child Abuse

- Withdrawal from friends and usual activities
- Changes in behaviour- this could include aggression, anger, hostility, hyperactivity, changes in school performance
- Depression, anxiety or a sudden loss of confidence
- Reluctance to go home
- Skipping School
- Rebellious/ defiant behaviour
- Problems sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Increased absence from school
- Eating disorders
- Self-harm or attempts at suicide
- Reluctance to go to school
- Young children may be overly affectionate to strangers
- Become easily anxious, lack confidence, show aggression to other children, animals, teachers

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse can occur when physical punishment is used or when a parent lashes out in anger. It is defined as an act that can result in physical injury to the child resulting in red marks, cuts, welts, bruises, muscle sprain or broken bones. This is defined as physical abuse even if the act was unintentional.

Indicators of physical abuse

- Unexplained injuries on any part of the body. Could include bruising, red marks, cuts, burns or fractures.
- Bruises of different ages as indicated by differing colours
- Injuries reflecting the shape of instrument used, such as belt, hand, electric cord
- Injuries that regularly appear after absence or vacation

Emotional Abuse

This is defined as persistent emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child which results in severe negative impact on the child's emotional development and health. Often a child suffering from emotional abuse may be subject to other kinds of abuse as well.

Indicators of Emotional Abuse

- Distant, isolated or lack a relationship with parents or guardians
- Use language or behaviour that is age inappropriate
- Lack emotional control or have extreme outbursts
- Lack age appropriate social skills
- Few, if any friends
- Becomes socially distant

Sexual Abuse

This can include a wide-range of sexual behaviours that may take place between a child and an older person or alternatively between a child and another child or adolescent. This may include inappropriate body contact such as sexual kissing, touching, fondling of genitals and intercourse. Other behaviours that can be termed as sexually abusive but not include bodily contact could involve genital exposure, ('flashing'), verbal pressure for sex, and sexual exploitation for purposes of prostitution or avoidance of certain people

Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Avoiding being alone with certain people (family member, friends, staff at school)
- Wishes to avoid places that the person may frequent such as home, school or after school clubs
- Signs of age inappropriate sexual activity
- Becoming sexually active at a young age
- Use of sexual language or information that is unsuitable for their age
- Physical symptoms of anal or vaginal soreness, unusual discharge, sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy
- Soreness when sitting or lying down.

Neglect

Neglect occurs when a parent or guardian does not provide the care a child needs even when financially able or when offered assistance in doing so. This could include failing to provide food, clothing or shelter. It may also include not providing a child with medical/ mental health care or failing to provide necessary medicines the child needs. Neglect can also include failing to provide the child with education, exposing the child to dangerous environments, poor supervision or placing the child in the care of someone incapable of providing it, forcing the child to leave the family home or abandoning it. This is the type of abuse most often reported to child care services but is often the most difficult to identify or prove.

Indicators of Neglect

- Inadequate clothing, unwashed clothing
- Poor hygiene, seems hungry, arrives at school without having eaten breakfast
- Repeated accidental injuries that seem to be due to lack of supervision
- Recurring illness or infections
- Tiredness
- Left alone for long periods of time according to age appropriateness
- May be living in an unsuitable home environment, unclean, unsafe, lack of child safety considerations
- Child taking on the role of primary caregiver.
- Untreated medical or dental issues

Peer On Peer Abuse

Peer-on-peer abuse is the physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised within young people's relationships, including their intimate relationships, friendships and wider peer associations.

Indicators of Peer on Peer Abuse

- Being blackmailed to engage in sexual activities
- Being threatened by peers
- Having sexual images taken of them without their consent
- Being excluded from social groups
- Having rumours and 'gossip' spread about them from other students

Guardian Abuse

Guardian abuse refers to any form of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or neglectful harm inflicted on a child by a parent, legal guardian, caregiver, or any adult in a position of responsibility or trust over the child, whether the harm is intentional or unintentional.

Indicators of Guardian Abuse

- Guardian seems indifferent to child
- Guardian unable to notice emotional/ physical distress in child
- Denies that problems exist or blames the child
- Display persistent negative verbal behaviour to the child, criticising, blaming and describing the child in negative terms
- Uses physical discipline
- Limits the child's contact with others
- Offers weak/contradictory explanations for physical injury or cannot explain injury at all.

Honor related abuse

Honor-related abuse or violence occurs to protect or restore the honor and social standing of a family or extended family.

Indicators of honour related abuse:

- Extensive control regarding education, school activities, friends or leisure activities and hobbies and clothing.
- Social isolation. The child is not allowed to participate in school trips, sports or other activities.
- Family and relatives are monitoring the child's behaviour in school.
- Absence and disappearance. The child does not come back after the holidays in school or disappears suddenly for a larger period of time.
- Physical and Psychological signs: bruises, wounds, fear, guilt and shame or self-destructive behaviour.
- Pressure or thoughts regarding engagement or marriage from guardians or other relatives although the child is underage.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse but in this type of abuse the child receives some sort of gift, money, affection, gang affiliation, or online present as a result of performing sexual activities or letting others perform the sexual activities to them. The child may believe that they are in a consensual loving relationship. Children may be groomed online, at parties, school, home, friends' homes, church, camps, parks or any other location where the perpetrator can gain trust and familiarity with the victim. Signs and symptoms of child sexual exploitation can be hard to identify as it may be seen as normal teenage or adolescent behaviour.

Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

- Involved in relationships with older people, antisocial behaviour towards children their own age
- Goes missing from home or school

- Spends time at places of concern such as hotels or others' homes without a reason to visit a child of their own age
- Involved with petty crime
- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden changes to the way they look, dress or act
- Online activity is secretive, online history is regularly deleted

Child sexual abuse online

When young people are persuaded or forced to: send or post sexually explicit pictures of themselves, perform sexual activities via phone camera or webcam, 'sexting' or sexual conversations online. This could also include AI generated sexual images. The abuser may threaten to use or expose the victim if they tell anyone about their online relationship. They may also threaten the victim to induce them to perform sexual activities.

Indicators of Sexual Online Abuse

- Excessive amounts of time online
- Talking about someone who "really understands them", but can't be met in real life.
- Receiving monetary or physical gifts that cannot be explained
- Sudden secrecy about devices (hiding screens and phones)
- Increased stress when not able to access phone/device
- Increased anxiety and stress
- Self-harm

Procedures if a child discloses abuse

- Do not let a child swear you to secrecy before telling you something. You can reassure the child that the information they give you will be treated sensitively and kept as confidential as necessary.
- If a child asks to speak with you, try to find a neutral and quiet setting
- Do not lead the child in the conversation, listen, letting him/her explain in his/her own words. If notes are not taken during the meeting, ensure they are taken shortly afterwards when the information is still fresh.
- Respond calmly and show empathy.
- If the child does not want to go home, this should be considered an emergency. Report and handle immediately by contacting a member of the student support team or a principal. Do not take the child home with you!

Reporting Procedures

All staff, volunteers and visitors are required to report incidents of abuse or neglect to the Principal, Deputy principal or a member of the student support team, (counsellor/ nurse) immediately.

Chapter 14, Section 1 of the Social Services Act (as of July 1, 2025: Chapter 19, Section 1), all staff in schools are **obligated to immediately report** to the Social Services if, in the course of their work, they suspect or become aware that a child is being harmed.

Any individual has the right to call Social services anonymously for advice.

Intimate Care Procedures

These Guidelines are for any ISGR staff member that finds themselves in an intimate care situation with a student.

Intimate care can be defined as any care that involves washing, touching or carrying out an agreed procedure to intimate personal areas in order to care for another person. Intimate care tasks are associated with bodily functions, body products and personal hygiene that may involve direct or indirect contact with, or exposure of the genitals. All intimate care is provided in a manner so as to maintain the child or young person's dignity and confidence. The child or young person is cared for in a way that avoids distress, embarrassment or pain.

- When a child needs help toileting or has had an accident, alert another staff member that you are assisting a child. If a student has regressed, please inform the parents immediately.
- Always where possible, keep the toilet doors open and remain visible.
- Encourage the student to be independent
- If possible, especially in the case where a child has been sick/had an accident, use gloves and an apron when trying to clean the child. Where possible, ask for additional support (i.e. school nurse, cleaners and/or other members of staff).
- Send the soiled clothes home in double plastic bags.
- In the case where a child/children are in a cubicle or bathroom with a closed door for an extended period and there is cause for concern, knock to inform the child that you are there and that they should open the door. In the case that the child refuses, ask them to explain why. If the child is not speaking, explain that you will have to call someone to open the door to check on their wellbeing.
- Only one student is permitted in a cubicle at a time.
- Wherever possible, staff should care for a child of the same gender.

The school nurses on both campuses have an infirmary where they receive students, staff and parents. For confidentiality reasons they may close the door and curtain. The school nurses have the right to administer medication and treatments with the approval of parents/guardians. In the case of injury, the nurse may ask students to undress to show injured or affected body parts. In this case the nurses always ask the students' permission and explain what they will do before doing so.

Child Protection Training

Presentations and general guidelines are presented to all staff each term. Leadership members and the student health team undergo CIS child protection training on a regular basis.

References

[Skolverket](#)

[Swedish school law](#)

[Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

Appendix - Preventative and proactive child safeguarding measures

Guldheden Campus

	PYP0-5	LgrpF-6	PAL (0/F-6)	MYP1-2
Scheduled staff on break duty	X	X	X	X
Staff wear a name tag at all times	X	X	X	X
Staff use a high-vis vest/jacket when on duty	X	X	X	X
Scheduled staff during lunchtime (Pedagogical lunch)	X	X	X	X
Scheduled staff during breakfast/afternoon snack	N/A	N/A	X	N/A
Supervised transition between classes/breaks for younger students	X	X	X	N/A
Risk assessment before excursions and camp	X	X	X	X
Scheduled supervision for swimming day	X	X	N/A	N/A
Parent/Teacher helpers for school trips	X	X	N/A	X
PE changing room supervision	(0-2)	(Fsk-2)	N/A	-
PE changing room supervision from the corridor	X	X	N/A	X

Younger students wear a high-vis vest during break times and outings	X	X	X	N/A
All visitors must sign in/out at the school reception and wear a visitor badge	X	X	X	X
Police background checks are provided by all Erasmus students and regular volunteers (e.g: library)	X	X	X	X
Windows into classrooms are not to be covered	X	X	X	X
Approved list of students who are allowed to go home alone from PAL	N/A	N/A	X	N/A
List of authorised adults that can collect children from PAL	N/A	N/A	X	N/A

Göteborg Campus

	MYP	LGRM
Scheduled staff on break duty	X	X
Scheduled staff during lunchtime (Pedagogical lunch)	X	X
Scheduled corridor duty	X	X
Risk assessment before excursions and camp	X	X
Parent/Teacher helpers for school trips	X	X
All visitors must sign in/out at the school reception and wear a visitor badge	X	X

More information about our Preventative and proactive measures for student well-being can be found in each section's 'Student well-being plan' / 'Plan mot kränkande behandling'.