

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

St. Michael's International School has a legal and ethical obligation to safeguard the welfare of students. Our aim is to build and maintain a proactive environment that protects children by either preventing child abuse before it occurs or by earliest possible detection, intervention and reporting. All staff should be familiar with the school Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy. All St. Michael's staff are required to undergo annual Child Protection and Safeguarding training.

### **Professional Expectations**

#### **All staff should:**

- be a positive role model and stay within a professional role;
- set and maintain appropriate boundaries with students;
- be fair and consistent in implementing the Pastoral Care Policy in particular when managing student behaviour;
- understand that as teachers we have significant power in our relationships with students and only use our influence to promote positive developmental growth in our students;
- act transparently, unambiguously and consistently within the expectations of the school, always putting the interests of the students first;
- report anything that gives cause for concern to the Deputy Head of School using the Pastoral Referral Form;
- treat any information received about students or parents in a discreet and confidential manner.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

1. St. Michael's staff will wear their school identity badge at all times
2. Visitors to school will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.
3. Regular visitors to school such as Board and Council, POSMs, Speech and Language Therapist and shadows will wear an SMIS identity badge which includes a photograph.
4. Volunteers, students on placement, accrediting teams etc... will be asked to read and sign the '*General Safeguarding Procedures for Visitors*' document, available from the Office.
5. Strangers found on school premises will be politely challenged by any SMIS member of staff, initially by asking 'How may I help you?'
6. As educators we will maintain a professional relationship with students at all times. All staff are expected to:
  - minimise ambiguous physical contact and other behaviour or actions that could be misinterpreted;
  - avoid the use of inappropriate or ambiguous language in interactions with students, including in electronic communication;
  - not send emails or messages which asks for or offers information of a personal nature;
  - maintain an open door policy when holding 1-1 meetings with students;
  - use only designated 'Adult Toilets.'
  - when changing for after school clubs only do so in a lockable, private space out of view of children or other adults;
  - be aware of excessive personal self-disclosure and avoid having 'secrets' with students;
  - stay alert to the inherent dependency of students on their teachers and understand both the real and perceived power exercised by teachers over students;
  - only take photographs of students for professional use within SMIS;

*St. Michael's International School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults.*

- not place any personal identifying information regarding any student on any personal electronic device or on personal social media;
- sign and adhere to the Acceptable Internet User agreement;
- report concerns of any inappropriate behaviour witnessed by a colleague to the Head of School.