

Northbridge International School Cambodia (NISC)

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Our Commitment to Your Child's Safety

At NISC we prioritize the safety and well-being of your children. We believe that students thrive best in a secure environment. Our goal is to empower them to make informed choices about their safety through a rich curriculum that includes personal, social, and health education.

Key Principles

1. **Child Welfare Comes First:** Every child has the right to be protected from harm, regardless of their background.
2. **Creating a Safe Environment:** We ensure that all students feel safe and secure at school.
3. **Education for Safety:** We provide a comprehensive curriculum that prepares students to stay safe.
4. **Partnering with Parents:** We work closely with you and other professionals to ensure your child's protection.
5. **Support for All Needs:** We recognize that some students may need extra support due to various factors.

Our Goals

- **Safe Learning Space:** We strive to create a world-class, secure environment for your child.
- **Staff Awareness:** We educate our staff on safeguarding issues and their responsibilities in protecting students.
- **Clear Communication:** We maintain open lines of communication regarding child protection among all staff members.
- **Reporting Procedures:** We have established clear procedures for reporting any safeguarding concerns.

Who Is Responsible?

Principal: The Principal, Christopher Short, holds ultimate responsibility for safeguarding at NISC.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Each Nord Anglia Education school has appointed DSLs to manage safeguarding concerns. At Northbridge, the DSLs are:

- Tara Hirshall: tara.hirshall@nisc.edu.kh
- John McCance: john.mccance@nisc.edu.kh
- Wendy Lahy: wendy.lahy@nisc.edu.kh
- Karel Van der Linden: karel.vanderlinden@nisc.edu.kh

What to Do If You Have Concerns

If you suspect your child may be at risk or in distress, please encourage them to speak to a trusted adult at school. Staff members are trained to listen, reassure, and document any disclosures sensitively.

How We Handle Disclosures

1. **Listen:** We take time to listen to your child's concerns.
2. **Reassure:** We provide comfort without making promises we can't keep.
3. **Ask Open Questions:** We seek clarity without leading or pressuring.
4. **Document:** We record the conversation promptly and accurately.
5. **Report:** We forward the information to the DSL for appropriate action.

Training and Support for Staff

All staff receive safeguarding training when they join and every two years afterward. Our DSLs undergo advanced training to stay updated on the latest safeguarding practices.

Additional Focus Areas

- **Safe Recruitment:** We conduct thorough checks for all staff and volunteers working with children.
- **Mental Health Support:** We prioritize support for students facing mental health challenges.

Addressing Bullying and Peer Abuse

We take bullying very seriously and investigate all reports thoroughly. We have clear procedures in place to address peer-on-peer abuse, ensuring that all students feel supported and safe.

In summary

Our safeguarding and child protection policy is designed to create a safe and nurturing environment for your child at NISC. We encourage you to engage with us and ensure your child knows the importance of reporting any concerns to trusted adults.

Please note this is an abridged version of the full Northbridge Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. If you require the policy in full, please contact Ms. Wendy Lahy at wendy.lahy@nisc.edu.kh.

For more information or if you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Designated Safeguarding Leads at Northbridge. Your child's safety is our top priority.