	ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)	Date: January 2025
	SCHOOL POLICIES	Issue: 02
	STUDENT SAFE GUARDING POLICY	Review: April 2026

1. Purpose

AGS School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students. This policy sets out the school's responsibilities, procedures, and expectations to ensure students are protected from harm and feel safe, supported, and listened to at all times. The policy recognises the school's duty of care and is aligned with applicable child protection legislation and regulatory requirements.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors, and any adults engaged in school-related activities. It covers safeguarding responsibilities during all school operations, including on-site activities, off-site visits, digital environments, and school-organised events.

3. Safeguarding Principles

AGS School operates on the following safeguarding principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All students have the right to feel safe, respected, and protected from harm
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of all adults within the school community
- The school acts *in loco parentis* during all school-related activities


Safeguarding includes protection from all forms of maltreatment, including abuse, neglect, bullying, cyberbullying, exploitation, substance abuse, and emotional harm.

4. Safe Environment and Security

The school maintains a secure and supportive environment where students feel confident to raise concerns.

This includes:

- Controlled access to school premises and visitor management procedures
- Physical and digital security measures, including monitored systems and breach management
- Clear expectations for online conduct and digital safety **ADEK School**

	ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)	Date: January 2025
	SCHOOL POLICIES	Issue: 02
	STUDENT SAFE GUARDING POLICY	Review: April 2026

Digital Policy

- A transparent, caring school culture that encourages student voice

5. Governance and Safeguarding Roles

AGS School maintains clear safeguarding leadership and accountability structures.

5.1 Safeguarding Leadership

A designated Safeguarding Lead, the school counsellor, supported by a safeguarding committee where applicable, is responsible for:

- Overseeing safeguarding policy implementation
- Ensuring procedures are followed consistently
- Reviewing safeguarding effectiveness annually
- Coordinating staff training and awareness
- Ensuring volunteers and visitors understand safeguarding responsibilities

5.2 Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for:


- Remaining vigilant to safeguarding concerns
- Acting promptly on any disclosure or concern
- Following reporting procedures without delay
- Maintaining professional boundaries at all times

6. Safeguarding Awareness and Education

The school promotes safeguarding awareness through:

- Mandatory staff training on recognising and responding to concerns
- Monitoring and supporting vulnerable students, including those with additional needs
- Age-appropriate safeguarding education within the curriculum, including online safety, personal boundaries, and help-seeking skills

7. Reporting and Response Procedures

	ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)	Date: January 2025
	SCHOOL POLICIES	Issue: 02
	STUDENT SAFE GUARDING POLICY	Review: April 2026

AGS School maintains clear procedures for reporting and managing safeguarding concerns.

7.1 Reporting Concerns

- Any safeguarding concern must be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Lead within 24 hours.
- Concerns are documented using approved reporting forms or systems
- Serious concerns are escalated to relevant authorities in line with regulatory guidance. In cases where a concern requires external escalation, the school will report the matter to the **ADEK Child Protection Unit (CPU)** and other relevant authorities (such as the Family Care Authority) within **24 hours**. This process is conducted in strict accordance with **UAE Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 concerning child rights (Wadeema's Law)**, which mandates the reporting of any suspicion of maltreatment to ensure the child's legal rights and safety are upheld.
- In emergencies or where a child is in immediate danger, emergency services are contacted without delay

7.2 Supporting Students

The school ensures:


- Students are listened to and reassured
- Confidentiality is respected and information shared only on a need-to-know basis
- Appropriate support is provided to students affected by safeguarding incidents

8. Confidentiality and Record Keeping

Safeguarding records are:

- Maintained securely and separately from general student files
- Accessed only by authorised personnel
- Managed in accordance with data protection requirements

Use of photographs, video, and digital media is controlled and monitored to

	ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)	Date: January 2025
	SCHOOL POLICIES	Issue: 02
	STUDENT SAFE GUARDING POLICY	Review: April 2026

protect student privacy and safety.

9. Training, Vetting, and Professional Conduct

AGS School ensures robust safeguarding practice through:

- Safeguarding induction for all staff, volunteers, and regular visitors
- Mandatory annual safeguarding updates
- Background checks and credential verification for staff and volunteers
- Clear codes of conduct prohibiting inappropriate behaviour, including corporal punishment

Any breach of safeguarding expectations is addressed through formal disciplinary procedures, which may include suspension pending investigation.

10. Monitoring and Review

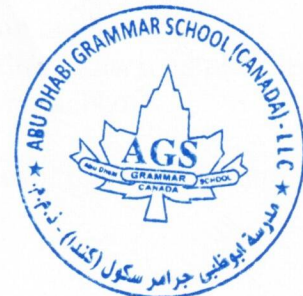
This policy is reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness and compliance with current requirements. Monitoring includes:

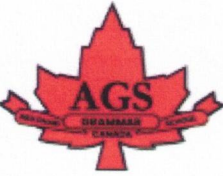
- Review of safeguarding incidents and responses
- Staff training completion records
- Safeguarding audits and leadership oversight

Safeguarding practices are continuously improved in response to emerging risks and school community needs.


Patrick Savage
 School Principal

Mr. Patrick Hugh Savage
Principal



	ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)	Date: January 2025
	SCHOOL POLICIES	Issue: 02
	STUDENT SAFE GUARDING POLICY	Review: April 2026

Bibliography: Regulatory Framework & Statutory Guidance

1. Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) Policies


- **ADEK School Safeguarding Policy (2024).** *Version 1.2.* This primary regulatory document outlines the "Duty of Care" and *in loco parentis* responsibilities of school staff, mandatory reporting protocols, and the requirement for a designated Safeguarding Lead.
- **ADEK Student Protection Policy (2024).** *September 2024 Update.* Sets out the legal obligations for schools to prevent, recognize, and respond to all forms of student maltreatment (physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect).
- **ADEK Student Behavior Policy (2024).** *Version 1.3 (November 2024).* Provides the framework for maintaining a safe school environment through positive behavior management, anti-bullying measures, and "Positive Handling" (restraint) protocols.
- **ADEK Organising Regulations of Private Schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.** *Article (6).* Explicitly mandates that schools guarantee students' rights to be free from exploitation, violence, and harm, and requires a published policy to this effect.
- **ADEK School Digital Policy (2024).** Governs online safety, cyberbullying, and the protection of students in digital learning environments.

2. UAE Federal Legislation

- **Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights ("Wadeema Law").** The landmark legislation in the UAE that defines the legal rights of every child to safety, education, and protection from all forms of abuse and negligence.
- **Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 (Crimes and Penalties Law).** Establishes the criminal penalties for failure to report child abuse and for acts of maltreatment.
- **Federal Decree Law No. (21) of 1995 (on Traffic).** (Relevant to safeguarding during school transportation and arrival/dismissal).

3. School-Specific Governance Documents (AGS)

- **AGS Student Safeguarding Policy (2025).** *Issue 02 (January 2025).* The internal operational manual defining AGS's specific safeguarding commitment, induction

	ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)	Date: January 2025
	SCHOOL POLICIES	Issue: 02
	STUDENT SAFE GUARDING POLICY	Review: April 2026

for staff, and vetting procedures.

- **AGS Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) System Management Manual (2024).** Updated February 2024. Integrates safeguarding into the broader physical safety and risk management of the school campus.
- **AGS Transportation Policy (2024).** Details safeguarding protocols specifically for the transit of students between home and school, including "Empty Bus" verification and supervisor roles.