

## COGNITA ASIA SAFEGUARDING OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

Safeguarding children describes the action we take in Cognita Asia schools to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. We believe that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and that everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

We define safeguarding as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Children are best protected when our school community has a clear understanding of the school's reporting requirements and processes, and how we need to work in partnership to uphold student safety and wellbeing.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. The child's needs are paramount, and the needs and wishes of each child will be put first so that every child receives the support they need, before a problem escalates
2. Our staff will always act professionally when we come into contact with children and families so that we are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to the children
3. We will share information in a timely way and discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues, and relevant local authorities (where appropriate)
4. As high quality professionals, we will use our professional judgment to put the child's needs at the centre of our decision-making so that the right solution is found for each individual child
5. We will contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote a child's welfare and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for any child against specific plans

6. We respect, and work in partnership with, the local safeguarding authority as they coordinate the work to safeguard children. We make sure that our policy and practice is compliant with local procedures for child protection and safeguarding
7. We recognise that children need the following from us: vigilance, understanding and action, stability, respect, information and engagement, explanation, support and advocacy
8. As front line professionals working with children, we aim to make sensible decisions in areas such as pre-employment screening, making sure that we request background and reference checks which are aimed at ensuring the children are kept safe
9. We work in partnership with parent/carer(s). In doing so, we will ensure that they are aware that the school has a duty to report concerns that we may have over the safety or wellbeing of a pupil as part of our statutory duties to protect children from significant harm/abuse/neglect. Parent/carer(s) will also be reminded that, where appropriate, any potential referral to local authorities will be discussed with them before the referral will be made. However, parent/carer(s) **will not be** contacted, nor will the referral be discussed, where it is felt that to do so would place the child at an increased risk of harm, and/or where the local authorities have advised as such.

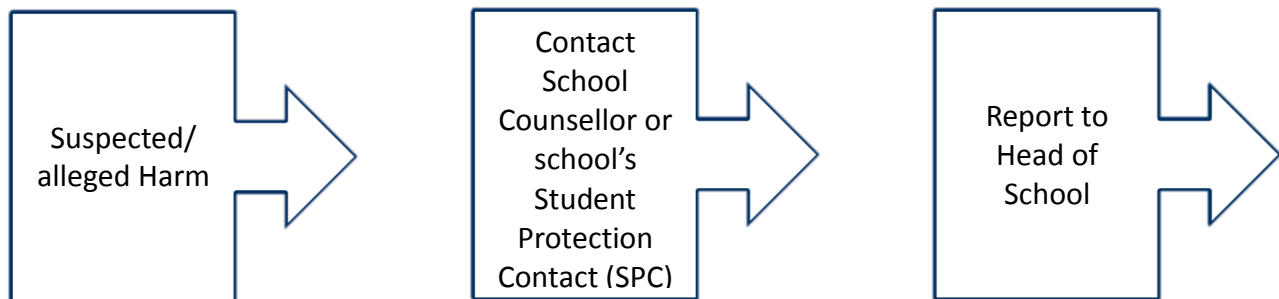
## GUIDING PROCEDURES

1. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. We are particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who has specific additional needs, has special educational needs, is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour, or whose family circumstances present particular challenges for the child (substance abuse, adult mental health issues, domestic violence, and/or who is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect)
2. We are committed to continuing to develop our knowledge and skills in safeguarding and protecting children. Employees and volunteers have access to training to identify and respond early to abuse and neglect

## REPORTING

Cognita Asia schools respond to alleged or suspected harm to students via two differing reporting processes.

### **Reporting suspected or alleged harm to students by a non-employee (i.e., family member, another student, self-harm)**



If you have any concerns about the safety of students within our school, you must report your concerns in a timely manner. If the allegation or suspicion of harm to a student is against a non-employee of the school, you must report directly to the school counsellor or student protection contact within the school. Your school counsellor or student protection contact may hold additional information relevant to the child and will support and assist you with the required reporting procedures. You will then report your concern to the Head of School. In the case where the allegations are against the counsellor, you will report directly to the Head or School. In the case where the allegations are against the Head of School, you will report directly to the CEO Cognita Asia Pacific.

### Reporting harm or inappropriate behaviour to students by an employee:



If the allegation or suspicion of harm to a student is against an employee of the school, you must report directly to the Head of School.

In the case where the allegations are against the Head of School, you must report directly to the CEO Cognita Asia Pacific.

### CAUSES OF HARM

There are five causes of harm that we need to be aware of and respond to in order to keep children safe

- Sexual Abuse
- Emotion/Psychological Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Neglect
- Domestic Violence

### SOURCES OF HARM

There are four sources of harm that we need to be aware of and respond to in order to keep children safe

- By an employee - Is any person who is engaged by the school to carry out work for financial reward on a temporary, casual, permanent or fixed term basis; and includes contractors.
- By a non-employee - Any person who is not an employee of the school (i.e. family member, friend, volunteer or other).

- By another student - Is any person, regardless of age, who is enrolled at the school.
- Self-harm - This includes direct means of harming themselves (i.e., cutting, burning). Self-harm also includes engaging in serious risk taking behaviours such as significant alcohol/substance abuse, reckless dangerous physical activities and/or unsafe promiscuity.

#### **SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS AT OUR SCHOOL:**

Principal – [Mr Andre Casson](#)

Designated Safeguarding Contact (DSPC) – [Lia Gould](#)

School Counsellor – [Doug Balzer](#)

CEO Cognita Asia – [Brian Rogove](#)