

Child Protection Procedure

American School of The Hague, in keeping with the principles set forth in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child unanimously adopted by the United Nations, believes that:

1. Every child is entitled to equal rights without distinction or discrimination on account of race, color, sex, creed or national origin.
2. Every child should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally in a healthy and natural manner.
3. The child should in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief.
4. Every child should be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation.
5. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; furthermore, that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents

Therefore, as a student-centered school committed to the education of the whole child, American School of The Hague is strongly opposed to any behavior which constitutes emotional, physical, sexual, or psychological abuse or neglect.

Adults who work with young people have an ethical and legal obligation to take appropriate steps involving the appropriate professionals any time there is a concern or suspicion of any kind of abuse or neglect. The appropriate procedures at American School of The Hague are outlined in the attached flowchart. These procedures align with the protocol used in Dutch schools and are supported by Dutch agencies and law.

The “envelope of confidentiality” in the attached flowchart provides all involved with a safe space to evaluate the gravity of the concerns, and to determine whether—and if so, what—measures are necessary to safeguard the well-being of the student involved.

“Confidentiality” means acting in ways that are guided by the “best interests of the child.” Such “best interests” do not include the offering of promises that all information shared will be kept secret. If a student’s best interests are threatened, appropriate steps (see flow chart) to end the neglect or abuse must be sought.

American School of The Hague will inform staff in the appropriate handling of such situations, so that any intervention—should intervention be necessary—has the best chance of supporting the long-term interests of the child in question.



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Child Abuse and Neglect Definitions

1. Physical Abuse: The inflicting, or allowing the infliction, of intentional, non-accidental physical injury to a child by a parent or person responsible for the care of the child.
2. Physical Neglect: The withholding, by a parent or person responsible for the care of the child, of those things necessary for his/her health and normal development, including adequate food, clothing, shelter, sleep, supervision, medical treatment and education.
3. Sexual Abuse: The involvement of a child in any sexual act or situation. All sexual activity between a child and parent or person responsible for the care of the child is considered sexual abuse.
4. Emotional Abuse: An act of commission or omission, by the parent or person responsible for the care of the child, that significantly impairs the emotional well-being of a child. This includes: humiliation; threats to injure or withdraw physical or emotional support; isolation from social contacts; or withholding things necessary for mental health such as respect, security, limits, attention, affection and love.
5. Psychological Neglect: The young person is isolated, ignored; nurturing is withheld; the responsible adult pays little or no attention to the young person.



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Suspected Child Abuse Referral Process: the Obligation to Report

