



STUDENT-FRIENDLY STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY

Our Promise to You

At Merryland International School, every student has the right to feel safe, respected, valued and cared for.

We want our school to be a place where everyone can learn, grow and express themselves without fear of being hurt, bullied, threatened, discriminated against or treated unfairly.

Your safety and wellbeing are very important to us.

1. Your Rights

Every student at Merryland International School has the right to:

- Be safe at school, on school buses and during school activities.
- Be treated with dignity and respect.
- Be treated fairly and without discrimination.
- Be listened to and have your views taken seriously.
- Ask for help when you are worried, frightened, upset or feel unsafe.
- Be protected from harm, abuse, neglect, bullying and exploitation.
- Receive appropriate support when you need it.
- Tell a trusted adult about a concern without being punished for speaking up.

The school will always consider the best interests and safety of the student when responding to a concern.

2. What Does "Student Protection" Mean?

Student protection means keeping students safe from harm and taking action when a student may be at risk.

Harm can happen at school or outside school. It can also happen online.

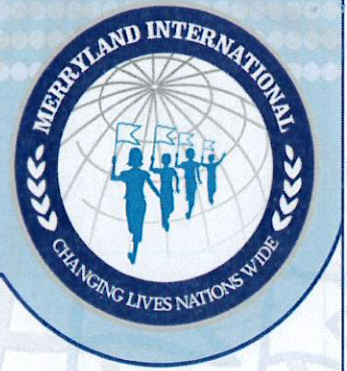
The school takes all concerns seriously.

3. What Can Harm a Student?

Student maltreatment can include:

Physical Abuse

Hurting a student physically or using physical force in a way that causes, or could cause, injury or harm.



Emotional Abuse

Words or actions that repeatedly make a student feel worthless, unwanted, humiliated, frightened or unloved.

Sexual Abuse

Any sexual activity involving a student that is inappropriate, harmful or against the law.

Neglect

When a person responsible for a student does not provide the care, safety and basic needs the student requires.

Exploitation

Using a student unfairly for someone else's benefit or involving a student in activities that can harm their wellbeing, education or development.

Bullying

Repeated physical, verbal or social behaviour intended to hurt, frighten, exclude or control another student.

Bullying may happen:

- In person
- In groups
- Through messages or social media
- Online or through mobile phones

Cyberbullying is bullying that happens online.

The school has zero tolerance for all forms of student maltreatment.

4. Bullying – What Should You Do?

If someone repeatedly hurts, threatens, humiliates, excludes or frightens you or another student:

Don't keep it to yourself.

Tell a trusted adult, such as:

- Your teacher
- School counsellor
- Social worker
- Child Protection Coordinator



- Principal
- Another trusted member of staff

You should also tell an adult if you see someone else being bullied.

Being a bystander does not mean you have to solve the problem yourself. Your job is to seek help.

5. If Something Happens to You

If someone hurts you, threatens you, makes you feel unsafe, behaves inappropriately towards you, or you are worried that something may happen to you:

Speak up.

You can tell:

Your Teacher → Counsellor/Social Worker → Child Protection Coordinator → Principal

You do not need to be certain that something is wrong before asking for help.

If you are worried about another student, you should also tell a trusted adult.

The school expects concerns about possible maltreatment to be reported immediately to the Child Protection Coordinator or another member of the Child Protection Team.

6. You Will Not Get Into Trouble for Asking for Help

If you genuinely believe that you or another student may be in danger or may be experiencing harm, tell an adult.

You will not be punished simply for reporting a concern.

The school is committed to providing students with a safe and confidential way to report concerns about their safety and wellbeing.

Remember:

It is always better to speak up than to keep a serious safety concern to yourself.

7. What Happens When You Tell Someone?

When you report a concern:

1. An adult will listen to you.
2. The concern will be taken seriously.
3. The appropriate school staff will be informed.
4. The school will take steps to protect you and/or any student who may be at risk.
5. Where required, the concern will be reported to the appropriate authorities.



6. You may receive appropriate support and follow-up.

You do not have to investigate the situation yourself.

You should simply tell a trusted adult what you know or what you have experienced.

8. What If the Problem Happened Outside School?

You should still tell a trusted adult at school.

Student protection applies to concerns that happen inside or outside school, including situations that may affect a student's safety or wellbeing while they are under the school's care or supervision.

This may include concerns involving:

- Home
- School transport
- Online activities
- Social media
- Activities outside school
- Other places or situations

9. What If Someone Is in Immediate Danger?

If you or another student is in immediate danger, tell an adult straight away.

The school will take immediate action and, where necessary, contact the Principal and the Police.

Abu Dhabi Police: 999

Emergency concerns must be reported without delay.

10. Important People Who Can Help You

Child Protection Coordinator (CPC)

The Child Protection Coordinator is a trained member of the school who helps protect students and responds to student protection concerns.

The CPC can:

- Listen to concerns.
- Help keep students safe.
- Coordinate the school's response.
- Report concerns to the appropriate authorities when required.
- Work with parents and other professionals.



- Help ensure that students receive appropriate support.

Child Protection Team (CPT)

The school also has a Child Protection Team. It includes appropriately trained members of staff who support the school in dealing with student protection concerns.

11. Confidentiality and Privacy

When you report a serious concern, information about the case will be treated confidentially.

Your personal information and the details of the concern will only be shared with people who are authorised and need the information to help protect you or manage the case.

This means that you should also respect the privacy of other students involved in a student protection matter.

Do not share details of a student's case, photographs, videos or personal information with other students or on social media.

12. How Adults Should Treat Students

Adults working with students must:

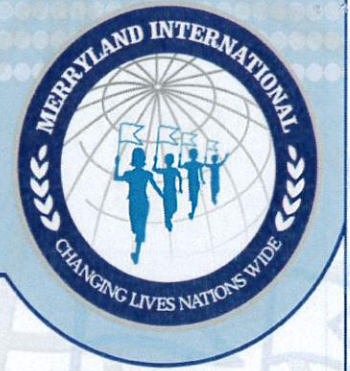
- Treat every student with respect and dignity.
- Protect students from harm.
- Behave appropriately around students.
- Never intentionally put a student at risk.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or concerns about student safety.
- Follow the school's safeguarding and student protection requirements.

13. What Can You Do to Help Keep Our School Safe?

Everyone has a part to play in creating a safe school.

You can:

- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Respect differences between people.
- Do not bully, threaten, humiliate or deliberately hurt others.
- Do not participate in cyberbullying.
- Tell an adult if you are worried about someone's safety.
- Do not encourage others to hide harmful behaviour.



- Respect other people's privacy.
- Use technology and social media responsibly.
- Follow school safety rules.
- Ask for help whenever you feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

14. Remember the 5 IMPORTANT STEPS

NOTICE → MOVE AWAY → SPEAK → REPORT → GET HELP

1. NOTICE

Recognise when something feels unsafe, harmful or inappropriate.

2. MOVE AWAY

If it is safe to do so, move away from the situation.

3. SPEAK

Tell the person to stop if it is safe and appropriate to do so.

4. REPORT

Tell a trusted adult what happened.

5. GET HELP

Keep asking for help until someone listens and supports you.

15. Important Contact Information

Emergency

Abu Dhabi Police: 999

Family Care Authority (FCA)

800444

Ministry of Education Child Protection Unit

80085

Safety Concern Portal

daasafetyconcern.abudhabi

The school will follow the required reporting procedures and contact the appropriate authorities when necessary.

MERRYLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL L.L.C.

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16. Most Important of All...

YOU MATTER.

If something is worrying you:

You can speak up.

If something has happened to you:

You can ask for help.

If you see another student being harmed:

Tell a trusted adult.

If you are not sure whether something is serious:

Tell someone anyway.

You are never alone in keeping yourself and others safe.

Merryland International School is committed to protecting every student and providing a safe, inclusive, respectful and supportive environment for all.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

[Signature]

Principal



