

# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY MAKSETH SCHOOL

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## **1. Introduction:**

At Makseth School, we are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all our students. We recognize the importance of protecting children from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding children and provides guidelines for preventing and responding to any concerns or incidents involving child welfare.

# 2. Policy Statement:

Makseth School is dedicated to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children under our care. We believe that every child has the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, harm, and exploitation. We are committed to creating an environment that promotes the well-being, dignity, and rights of children, and to taking appropriate action in response to any concerns or disclosures.

# 3. Roles and Responsibilities:

#### 3.1 Principal:

The Principal is responsible for implementing and monitoring the Child Protection Policy, ensuring that all staff members know their obligations, and providing appropriate training and resources.

The Principal is responsible for coordinating and overseeing all child protection matters within the school. This includes receiving and responding to concerns, making referrals to relevant authorities, and maintaining accurate records.

#### 3.2 Staff Members:

All staff members have a responsibility to report any concerns or suspicions of child abuse or neglect to the PRINCIPAL. They should familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of abuse, attend relevant training sessions, and create a safe and supportive environment for children.

#### 3.3 Students:

Students should be encouraged to report any concerns or incidents of abuse to a trusted adult within the school. They should be educated about their rights, boundaries, and personal safety, and know that their voices will be heard and taken seriously.

## 4. Prevention and Awareness:

### 4.1 Training:

All staff members will receive regular training on child protection issues, including recognizing signs of abuse, responding to disclosures, and understanding their reporting obligations. Training will be updated as necessary to reflect current best practices.

## 4.2 Child Protection Education:

Age-appropriate child protection education will be incorporated into the curriculum to empower students with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and seek help when needed. This may include lessons on personal safety, online safety, and understanding boundaries.

#### 4.3 Safer Recruitment:

Makseth School will follow rigorous recruitment processes to ensure the suitability of all staff members and volunteers working with children. This includes thorough background checks and obtaining references from previous employers.

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## 5. Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Concerns:

#### 5.1 Reporting Concerns:

Any staff member who has a concern about a child's welfare or suspects abuse must report it immediately to the Principal. Concerns may be raised through verbal or written disclosure or observation of concerning behaviors or physical signs.

#### 5.2 Responding to Disclosures:

When a disclosure is made, the staff member receiving the information should listen attentively, without judgment or interruption, and record the details accurately. They should reassure the child that they have done the right thing by speaking up and that appropriate action will be taken.

#### 5.3 Referrals and External Support:

The Principal will assess the nature and severity of the concern and determine whether it meets the threshold for a referral to the appropriate child protection agency. The PRINCIPAL will maintain close communication with relevant external agencies, such as child protection services, police, and healthcare professionals, to ensure appropriate support is provided.

#### 5.4 Record Keeping:

Accurate records of all concerns, disclosures, and actions taken will be maintained securely and confidentially. These records will be kept separate from academic records and retained for the specified legal duration.

# 6. Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

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Information regarding child protection concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, shared on a need-to-know basis, and following relevant data protection regulations. The welfare and safety of the child will always take precedence over the confidentiality of any individual.

# 7. Review and Monitoring:

This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually by the Principal and senior management to ensure its effectiveness, compliance with legal requirements, and alignment with best practices. Any necessary updates or revisions will be made accordingly.

# 8. Communication and Reporting:

This policy will be made available to all staff members, parents/guardians, and students. It will be displayed prominently on the school's website and communicated through newsletters, meetings, and other appropriate channels. Any concerns or incidents should be reported promptly to the Principal.

# 9. Conclusion:

Makseth School is committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive. This Child Protection Policy provides a framework for safeguarding children, preventing abuse, and responding effectively to any concerns. By working together, we can ensure the well-being and protection of every child in our care.

