

Child Protection Policy

Aims

At HSE we believe that our students must be protected from any deliberate or unintended actions that place them at risk of child abuse*, injury, discrimination and any other harm.

Child Abuse definition: Child Abuse is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as: 'all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.'

The main categories of abuse are defined by WHO as physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional and psychological abuse; and neglect.

Our teachers and other staff members are not only well educated and experienced but they are also passionate, conscientious and dedicated and we have conducted relevant background checks and all employees have undergone multiple and rigorous interviews prior to being employed.

Safeguarding children involves more than protecting children from abuse, and the school recognizes its responsibilities to respond to all concerns about children.

Each and every member of HSE team carries a responsibility towards safeguarding our students, furthermore to provide and maintain a comfortable and safe atmosphere which will encourage and enhance learning.

If any members HSE staff are concerned or made aware of an allegation of abuse, neglect or maltreatment, he/she has a duty to follow up on the case in reference with appropriate guidelines.

The guidelines include the following;

- To listen to the child.
- To take the child seriously and remain calm and attentive.
- Not ask leading questions or to put words in the child's mouth.

- No guarantees of confidentiality should be given; rather the informant should be told that the matter will be referred in confidence to the school counselor to ensure proper action is taken.
- HSE members' staff should remember that students may abuse as well as adults. A bullying incident should be treated as a safeguarding concern where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.