



THE
SEASIDE
SCHOOLS



Association of
International School
Educators of Nigeria

THE SEASIDE SCHOOLS' CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1.0 Introduction

At The Seaside Schools, we are committed to creating and sustaining a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. Our Mission is to integrate positive values and learning experiences using a relevant curriculum, world-class facilities, and a passionate workforce. Our Vision is to raise a generation of children who are exemplary in character, distinguished in learning, and who become role models in their communities and beyond.

Child protection and safeguarding are integral to realizing this mission and vision. They are not stand-alone initiatives but embedded across all aspects of school life—academic, spiritual, emotional, and social.

Our **Exemplary Character Project (ECP)** reinforces the values of integrity, respect, empathy, and responsibility, while the **Guidance and Counselling Initiative** provides a structured framework for student support, resilience-building, and well-being. Together, these programs underpin our safeguarding practice, ensuring children are not only protected from harm but are empowered to grow into confident, responsible, and compassionate citizens.

2.0 Policy Statement

Every child has the right to be safe, valued, and protected from harm. Accordingly, The Seaside Schools commits to:

- Providing a safe and supportive environment for all students, both day and boarding.
- Preventing and responding swiftly to child abuse, neglect, bullying, harassment, and all other threats to child well-being.
- Supporting students who have experienced or are at risk of harm, ensuring access to appropriate counselling and pastoral care.
- Embedding safeguarding principles into our curriculum, the ECP, and co-curricular activities.
- Working collaboratively with parents, carers, and relevant external agencies in the best interest of the child.

3.0 Definitions

- **Child Abuse:** Physical, emotional, or sexual maltreatment of a child.
- **Neglect:** Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs.
- **Bullying:** Repeated behaviour intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate another person.
- **Child Protection:** Specific measures taken to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

AREA 4, DIYA GATE, OPIC ESTATE, AGBARA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AGBARA.

08187180803, 08099386000 | www.theseasideschoolsng.com | info@theseasideschoolsng.com

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- **Safeguarding:** The broader responsibility to promote the safety, welfare, and holistic well-being of children, including through prevention, empowerment, and resilience-building.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Coordinates safeguarding efforts, receives and manages reports, liaises with external authorities, and provides training and guidance to staff.
- **Deputy DSL:** Supports the DSL and assumes responsibilities in their absence.
- **Guidance Counsellors:** Provide counselling, mentoring, and preventive programs; handle referrals from staff; and support resilience-building, academic planning, and character formation.
- **All Teaching Staff:** Remain vigilant, model exemplary character, integrate safeguarding into classroom practice, and promptly report concerns.
- **All Non-Teaching Staff:** Must report any disclosures or safeguarding concerns and support the protective culture of the school.
- **School Leadership:** Ensure safeguarding remains a strategic priority, provide resources, and monitor compliance.

5.0 Procedures

5.1 Reporting Concerns

- Concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL, whether observed, suspected, or disclosed.
- Staff must use the Safeguarding Concern Form (digital or paper-based) within 24 hours of any incident.

5.2 Initial Response

- DSL will assess immediate risks, ensure the child's safety, and determine urgent next steps.

5.3 Investigation

- Relevant information will be gathered sensitively and confidentially. Parents/carers will be informed where appropriate.

5.4 Student Support

- Counselling, safe spaces, and resilience-building programs will be provided through the Guidance & Counselling Unit.
- Students may also be referred to external agencies for specialized support when necessary.

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6.0 Bullying Prevention and Response

- **Prevention:** Safeguarding principles, the ECP, and pastoral initiatives will actively promote respect, empathy, inclusiveness, and kindness through curriculum content, assemblies, and peer-support programs.
- **Response:** Allegations will be taken seriously, investigated promptly, and sanctions applied in line with school policy. Support will be provided both to victims and to those displaying bullying behaviour, focusing on behavioural correction and character development.

7.0 Training and Awareness

- **Staff Training:** All staff (academic and non-academic) will undergo mandatory, annual training on child protection, safeguarding, and character education, including how to identify warning signs and handle disclosures.
- **Student Awareness:** Students will receive age-appropriate education on rights, safety, bullying prevention, mental health, and responsible digital citizenship.
- **Parent Engagement:** Workshops and communications will be provided to parents on safeguarding and their shared responsibility in promoting a safe environment.

8.0 Monitoring and Review

- **Incident Reporting:** All safeguarding incidents must be logged, securely stored, and regularly reviewed by the DSL.
- **Impact Review:** Effectiveness will be measured through student feedback, referrals, behavioural trends, and academic performance.
- **Annual Review:** This policy will be reviewed annually—or sooner if necessary—in consultation with staff, parents, and external experts.

9.0 Confidentiality

- All child protection information will be treated with strict confidentiality. Disclosure will only occur where necessary to protect the child or as required by law.

10.0 Conclusion

By embedding safeguarding into our Mission, Vision, the Exemplary Character Project, and the Guidance & Counselling Initiative, The Seaside Schools affirms that child protection is central to everything we do. Safeguarding is not only about preventing harm but about nurturing excellence, building resilience, and guiding every child to develop into an individual of strong character and purpose.

This policy reflects our unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child in our care is safe, supported, and empowered to thrive.

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