



XLIS
XI'AN LIANGJIATAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

2024-2025

**XI'AN LIANGJIATAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

At Xi'an Liangjiatan International School, our goal is to enable confident, open-minded global citizens through lifelong learning and a sense of community. To achieve this, we are committed to creating a safe learning environment for all our students and guests.

Goals

- Define what constitutes child abuse.
- Clearly communicate the reporting process.
- Outline how the school trains staff and associates.

2. Definitions and Signs of Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect refer to any act or failure to act that results in harm or risk of harm to a child. At XLIS, we take child protection very seriously, and we define child abuse and neglect as follows:

- **Physical Abuse:** Any intentional physical injury or harm caused to a child, such as hitting, kicking, burning, shaking, or otherwise harming a child.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Any behavior that harms a child's emotional development, self-worth, or social skills, such as belittling, criticizing, or threatening a child, or withholding love, support, or attention.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual activity with a child, including sexual touching, sexual assault, or sexual exploitation.
- **Neglect:** Failing to provide a child with basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision.
- **Medical Neglect:** Failing to provide a child with necessary medical treatment, which may result in serious harm or death.
- **Abandonment:** Leaving a child without proper care or supervision.

We recognize that child abuse and neglect can occur in any family, regardless of ethnicity, income, education, or religion. We are committed to preventing child abuse and neglect and to responding quickly and appropriately if we suspect that a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

3. Possible Signs of Physical and Sexual Abuse

While behavioral indicators alone do not necessarily constitute abuse, they may signal a need for further investigation when observed alongside other indicators. It is crucial to be vigilant and aware of these signs to prevent potential abuse.

Possible Signs of Abuse

- Unexplained bruises and welts on any part of the body.
- Bruises of different ages (various colors).
- Injuries reflecting the shape of an object used (e.g., electric cord, belt, buckle, ping pong paddle).
- Injuries that regularly appear after an absence or vacation.
- Unexplained burns, especially to the soles, palms, back, or buttocks.
- Burns with a pattern from an electric burner, iron, or cigarette.
- Rope burns on arms, legs, neck, or torso.
- Injuries inconsistent with information offered by the child.
- Immersion burns with a distinct boundary line.
- Unexplained lacerations, abrasions, or fractures.
- Venereal disease in a child of any age.
- Evidence of physical trauma or bleeding to the oral, genital, or anal areas.
- Difficulty in walking or sitting.
- Refusal to change into PE clothes.
- Child running away from home without giving any specific complaint.
- Pregnancy with no history of peer socialization.
- Sexual knowledge, behavior, or use of language not appropriate to age level.

4. Child Protection Team Roles and Responsibilities

The child protection team comprises the Head of School, Child Protection Officer (CPO), Division Principals, School Counsellor, and School Doctor. The CPO is responsible for receiving allegations, keeping a record of the process, and ensuring annual training takes place. The child protection team evaluates all allegations and decides on appropriate actions in the best interests of the child.

5. Recruiting and Hiring

Our recruiting process aims to deter dangerous individuals from working at the school by incorporating child protection questions in every interview. We conduct thorough reference checks

for each candidate, including contacting four to five referees and asking if the candidate is safe to work with children. References from senior leaders are required, and at least two reference calls are part of this process.

6. Steps for Reporting

If a staff member identifies a case of suspected abuse or receives information raising concerns, the following steps are taken:

1. Report the incident or suspicion to the Child Protection Officer via email at kriss.parker@xalis.com or through our online reporting system <http://home.xalis.com/reportit/>
2. If physical injury is involved, the student is checked by health center staff to determine if emergency treatment is required.
3. The Divisional Principal and Head of School are immediately informed.
4. The Divisional Principal and School Counsellor determine if immediate intervention is needed.
5. An investigation is started by the Divisional Principal and Counsellor, including confidential interviews with pertinent staff and a review of the student's history.

Depending on the findings, the following actions may be taken:

- Age-appropriate discussions between the school counsellor and the child to gather further information.
- Observation of the child in class by the Divisional Principal, Counsellor, and/or teacher.
- If there is considerable evidence, a response team including the School Counsellor, Divisional Principal, and School Doctor will address the reported abuse.
- Continuous monitoring of the situation for further evidence or reports of abuse.

7. Training Plans

All staff members receive annual training on child protection. After training, staff members sign the XLIS Child Protection Code of Conduct. This process also includes all associates who work with students, such as bus monitors, drivers, cafeteria staff, cleaners, and extracurricular activity teachers.

8. Prevention

At XLIS, we believe that education is one of the best forms of prevention. Students in all programs participate in age-appropriate curricular instruction on health and safety topics relevant to their age

and stage. This includes understanding their rights, asserting limits over what happens to their bodies, and communicating effectively if boundaries are violated.

9. Local Chinese Law

Chinese laws related to child protection include the Law on the Protection of Minors, Criminal Law, and Education Law. These laws provide comprehensive protection for children under 18 years of age and cover issues such as child abuse, child labor, child trafficking, and neglect. They also outline the responsibilities of parents, guardians, and other individuals in protecting minors. The Criminal Law of China criminalizes acts such as child abuse, child trafficking, and child pornography, with severe punishments. The Education Law mandates compulsory education for children aged six to 15 and places responsibility on schools and teachers to protect children from harm.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

China signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, obligating it to protect and promote the rights of children, including their right to survival, development, protection, and participation. Article 17 of the UNCRC outlines prohibited conduct harmful to children, including abuse, neglect, illegal adoption, and domestic violence.

Online Safety

XLIS provides a safe and secure environment for students, ensuring the appropriate and safe use of digital devices and technology. The school's Technology Acceptable Use Policy defines cyberbullying and its consequences, including disciplinary action. The policy promotes responsible digital citizenship and encourages open conversations between parents and children about online behavior.

Child-On-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse refers to any form of abuse perpetrated by one child against another. XLIS recognizes the serious and long-lasting effects of such abuse and is committed to preventing and addressing it. A variety of forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, and physical abuse, are all examples of abuse that can have profound and long-lasting effects on the well-

being and development of individuals. Staff members are responsible for identifying and addressing child-on-child abuse and must report incidents to the Child Protection Officer for appropriate action.

Appropriate Touch and Safe Touch

Appropriate touch is defined as safe, non-threatening, and respectful of a child's boundaries. Safe touch is intended to comfort, reassure, or protect a child from harm. Guidelines include:

- No staff member or student should touch another child in a way that makes the child feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or frightened.
- No staff member or student should touch a child in private areas except in a medical emergency or when medically necessary.
- Staff should use appropriate language and tone when speaking to children.
- Physical punishment is not allowed under any circumstances.
- Parents and students are encouraged to report concerns or suspicions of abuse.

Staff members receive training on child protection and appropriate touch, and parents and students are informed through various communication channels.

XLIS is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students. Understanding and adhering to these guidelines ensures that we protect children from harm and uphold their rights to safety and well-being.

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