

CHILD PROTECTION at JIS – what parents need to know.

JIS is concerned to have proper child protection procedures in place in order to ensure the welfare and safety of the students in our care. The school is guided in this by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), (ratified by Brunei in 1995) and Brunei legislation (Children Order, 2000, and the Children and Young Person Order, 2006). The school aims to follow the guidelines of the Independent Schools Inspectorate, which monitors conditions in all HMC schools.

The school realises it must deal sensitively with these issues and take into consideration and respect the points of view of all cultures and traditions.

What is child abuse?

A person may abuse a child by causing them harm, or by failing to prevent harm. The abuse may be physical, emotional, sexual, or through neglect.

JIS has a child protection policy (available on request) which describes three main dimensions of practice:

- **Prevention** through teaching and pastoral support offered to students. Prevention through standard procedures of screening all staff recruited to JIS,
- **Procedures** for identifying and reporting suspected cases of abuse.
- **Support** for students who may have been abused or be experiencing abuse

Prevention

Thankfully, the vast majority of students and staff will not experience the trauma of abuse. However, in the course of their daily contact with children, school staff are well placed to notice the outward signs of abuse. The development of high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult also aid prevention. As such, the school undertakes to

- establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried
- include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse
- provide opportunity for induction and up-dated training in child protection policy and practice for all staff

Procedures

The school has an designated person to lead child protection who is trained in this area and liaises with local agencies. This is currently the School Counsellor. In the event of the Counsellor being absent from school, concerns should be reported to the relevant Head of School or the Principal. A reported concern, disclosure or allegation will be assessed carefully, confidentially and individually. Action taken aims to hold the welfare of the child as paramount and to support local Brunei legal requirements.

The local agency concerned with child protection is the Department of Community Development, under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport. They provide a public 'hotline' telephone number for reporting concerns about child welfare (office hours).

Hotline: 141

In the event of a student needing medical assessment or care, they should be taken directly to RIPAS for the specific attention and care of the Action Team on Child Abuse. The school has a legal responsibility to report serious child protection concerns to the Department for Community Development (Children and Young Person Order, 2006)

Most students from the Garrison are protected under UK Child Protection law and in the event of such a concern, the Garrison Social Worker would be the person contacted by the School Counsellor.

Protection of Informants: whistle blowers

The school recognises that an individual who reports that a child is in need of protection does so in the belief that they are doing the right thing. Brunei legislation reflects this (Children Order, 2000).

