

CHILD PROTECTION

Child abuse and/or neglect are a violation of a child's human rights and are obstacles to a child's education as well as his/her physical, emotional and social development. Westwood International School affirms its commitment, and ethical and legal obligation, to take appropriate actions in the event that a child has been, or is at risk of, being harmed. The school commits to take steps to ensure that any child at risk receives the services needed to ensure his/her safety and well-being. The school also accepts its obligation to provide preventative measures through thorough screening of all employees during recruitment; through teacher training in relation to Child Protection; and through providing social and emotional learning experiences that enable all students to understand and identify their rights as children and to identify risk-factors for abuse.

All staff members must sign the WIS '*Staff Professional Code of Conduct*' annually, and abide by its provisions, that include a declaration to take all possible steps to ensure the protection and safety of all children in the school community. Staff at Westwood must immediately report suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect. Reporting and follow-up of all suspected incidents will proceed in accordance with the procedures prescribed by this policy. The safety and well-being of the child or children involved will be given the highest priority whilst a thorough investigation of the reported incident, and due follow-up processes, take place.