

ESH Safeguarding Protocol 2022-2023

The European School of the Hague (ESH) is committed to providing a safe, collaborative and caring environment for all. Our highest priority is protecting the physical and mental health of all students in our care and this responsibility is shared by everybody. We demonstrate this through the operations of our campus, the recruitment of all adults working with/around the students in our care and the physical environment of our campus.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is preventing harm to children's health or development. It involves protecting children from abuse and neglect and ensures children have a safe and secure environment in which they can learn and grow.

ESH seeks to be a safe haven for students who may be experiencing abuse or neglect in any aspect of their lives.

Prevention:

As part of our overall educational programs and specific to our shared responsibility to educate children and to ensure a safe environment in which all children can learn and grow, ESH will:

1. Ensure all adults on campus who work with/around students obtain a certificate of good conduct (Verklaring omtrent gedrag (VOG)).
2. Provide a developmentally appropriate and transparent education for all grade levels to help students understand personal safety, needs and rights.
3. Annually familiarize all staff, adults working around students and their parents with the Safeguarding Policy.
4. Review this Safeguarding Policy in August/September each year.
5. Advise stakeholders on how to complete a Safeguarding Referral for any cases of child welfare concerns.
6. Guide and instruct staff at each stage of the process, including how to listen, how to respond to a student, completing forms, informing the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and next steps.

All ESH employees are required to report any suspicion of abuse or neglect, no matter how insignificant it may appear.

For a detailed overview of tips on how to speak with children about safeguarding concerns, please see the Safeguarding policy.

Recognising abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a student by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Students may be abused in the family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. Any student in any family in any school could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of “It could happen here”.

The four categories of abuse are: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect (physical or emotional)

For a detailed overview of forms of abuse, please see the Safeguarding policy.

Reporting safeguarding issues

In 2022-2023, ESH has three Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL): the support leader (Nicoline Mostert), the support coordinator (Mineke von der Thusen) and the school psychologist (Michelle Sitskoorn).

All safeguarding concerns must be made through the Safeguarding app in Edukey. All members of staff will be informed at the beginning of the schoolyear or throughout the year for new members of staff about the login details of Safeguarding in Edukey. Safeguarding can be accessed through the homepage in Digiplein. These reports will automatically be sent to the DSL and appropriate action will be taken.

When the DSL decides that intervention is required, the case will be shared with the appropriate members of staff and, if needed, reported to the Deputy Director. It is the responsibility of the Deputy Director to decide whether the Director needs to be informed of the safeguarding concern.

Depending on the situation, immediate action may be taken. The child will never be allowed to leave the school grounds if the DSL feels the safety of the child is compromised. If needed, the DSL will involve or seek advice from the external network of the school or the Child protection Services (Veilig Thuis or the Crisis Intervention Team).

The assigned member of staff/case manager/DSL will maintain contact with the child and family to provide support and guidance.

- Where appropriate, they will provide the child's teachers with ongoing support.
- Where appropriate, the assigned member of staff/case manager/DSL will provide resource materials and strategies for teacher use.
- The assigned member of staff/case manager/DSL will maintain contact with outside therapists and multidisciplinary teams to update the progress of the child in school. All documentation of the investigation will be kept in the child's confidential file in Edukey.

For a full description of the role of the DSL, please see the safeguarding policy.