المدرسة الفلبينية
THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL
"LEADER IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND VALUES FORMATION"

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THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL ABU DHABI STUDENT-FRIENDLY STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY

Academic Year 2026–2027

(Transform. Progress. Succeed)



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STUDENT-FRIENDLY STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY
Academic Year 2026–2027

"My Safety. My Rights. My Responsibility."

The Philippine School Abu Dhabi (TPS) is committed to providing a **safe, caring, inclusive, respectful, and values-based school environment** where every student is protected from harm. TPS has **zero tolerance for abuse, neglect, exploitation, and bullying** and works to ensure that every student is safe while participating in school activities, whether on campus, off campus, during transportation, or in online learning.

This Student-Friendly Policy explains what **you can expect from TPS, what you should do to protect yourself and others, and who you can approach when you need help.**

➢ YOUR RIGHTS AS A TPS STUDENT

At TPS, I have the right to:

- ✓ **Feel safe** at school and during all school-related activities.
- ✓ Be treated with **respect, dignity, fairness, and kindness**.
- ✓ Be protected from **physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual harm**.
- ✓ Be protected from **bullying and cyberbullying**.
- ✓ Be protected from **neglect and exploitation**.
- ✓ Learn in an environment free from **threats, intimidation, humiliation, and discrimination**.
- ✓ Receive appropriate support if I experience or witness something that makes me feel unsafe.
- ✓ Ask a trusted adult for help when I have a concern.

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Have my concern handled or care and confidentiality, shared only with authorized persons when necessary for my protection.

Remember:

You deserve to feel safe, respected, heard, and protected.

➢ WHO IS PROTECTED BY THIS POLICY?

This policy protects **all TPS students from Kindergarten to Senior High School**, including students with **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)** and **Gifted and Talented (G&T) students**.

The policy applies to situations involving:

- ✓ Teachers and school staff
- ✓ Class Advisers
- ✓ School personnel
- ✓ Volunteers
- ✓ Bus supervisors
- ✓ Visitors
- ✓ Other students

It applies whether you are:

- **Inside the school**
- **Using school transportation**
- **Joining school activities**
- **On field trips or off-campus activities**
- **Participating in online learning**
- **Using digital platforms connected to school activities**

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➢ WHAT DOES STUDENT PROTECTION MEAN?

Student Protection means keeping students safe from situations, actions, or behaviors that may cause physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual harm.

Safeguarding means taking action to prevent risks and protect your **safety, well-being, and development**.

Student Protection means TPS will do its best to keep me safe, listen to my concerns, and take appropriate action when I or another student may be at risk.

➢ WHAT IS STUDENT MALTREATMENT?

Student maltreatment is any action or failure to act that can cause harm to a student.

⃠ A. Physical Abuse

This includes intentionally hurting someone physically, such as:

- ✓ Hitting
- ✓ Slapping
- ✓ Hurting a student on purpose
- ✓ Using excessive or inappropriate physical discipline

💔 B. Emotional or Psychological Abuse

This includes behavior that seriously affects someone's feelings or mental well-being, such as:

- ✓ Repeated humiliation
- ✓ Threatening someone
- ✓ Intimidating someone
- ✓ Persistent rejection or degrading language

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⚠ C. Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

This includes inappropriate sexual behavior involving a student, including **online grooming**.

If someone asks you to keep inappropriate sexual behavior, messages, photos, or interactions secret, **tell a trusted adult immediately.**

🏚 D. Neglect

Neglect means failing to provide a child's basic needs, including:

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Proper supervision
- ✓ Nutrition
- ✓ Necessary medical care

🗣 E. Bullying and Cyberbullying

Bullying or cyberbullying involves repeated harmful behavior—verbal, social, physical, or digital—that causes emotional or physical distress.

Examples may include:

- ✓ Repeated name-calling
- ✓ Intimidation
- ✓ Social exclusion
- ✓ Hurtful online messages
- ✓ Spreading harmful content about someone
- ✓ Repeated online harassment

💰 F. Exploitation

Exploitation means using a student for another person's personal, financial, or political benefit.

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➢ MY "I CAN" STUDENT PROTECTION PROMISE

I CAN protect myself and others by:

I CAN treat everyone with respect.

I CAN respect the rights, feelings, privacy, and differences of others.

I CAN say **NO** when something makes me feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

I CAN move away from a dangerous or inappropriate situation when it is safe to do so.

I CAN tell a trusted adult when I am worried about myself or someone else.

I CAN report bullying and cyberbullying.

I CAN ask for help even if I am afraid, embarrassed, or unsure.

I CAN speak up when I see someone being hurt or treated unfairly.

I CAN use social media, phones, and other digital platforms responsibly.

I CAN avoid sharing hurtful, threatening, embarrassing, or inappropriate content about others.

I CAN respect students with different abilities, backgrounds, cultures, and needs.

I CAN participate in activities that promote empathy, inclusivity, and self-protection.

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the policy's expectations that students respect others' rights, report maltreatment or bullying to a trusted adult, participate in awareness programs, and follow TPS Core Values.

6. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS? REMEMBER: SPEAK UP — YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

If you experience, see, or suspect abuse, bullying, neglect, exploitation, or any other situation that may put a student at risk:

STEP 1 — TELL SOMEONE

Tell a trusted adult immediately. You may speak to:

- Your **Class Adviser**
- **Child Protection Officer/Coordinator**
- Teacher
- Guidance Counselor
- School Nurse
- School Administrator
- Another trusted adult in school

You do not have to investigate the situation yourself.

The TPS policy states that **students, staff, and parents can report concerns**.

7. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I REPORT?

When you report a concern, TPS will take appropriate steps to protect the student.

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1. IDENTIFY

The concern is recognized and reported.

2. REPORT

The Child Protection Officer/Coordinator documents the concern and follows the required reporting procedure.

3. PROTECT

If a student is in immediate danger, emergency safety measures are taken and the appropriate authorities are contacted.

4. ASSESS / INVESTIGATE

The appropriate authorities and school leadership assess the concern and take necessary action.

5. SUPPORT

The student may receive:

- ✓ Counseling
- ✓ Protection measures
- ✓ Academic support
- ✓ Emotional support
- ✓ Other appropriate assistance

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

Information about the case is handled confidentially and shared only with authorized persons who need the information to protect the student and manage the case.

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8. IF I AM IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

If you or another person is in **immediate danger**, seek help immediately.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Abu Dhabi Police: 999
Family Care Authority (FCA): 800 444 ADEK Child Protection Unit (CPU): 800 85

These contacts are identified in the TPS Student Protection Policy for emergency student protection concerns.

Remember:

If you are in danger, do not wait. Get help immediately.

9. BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING

At TPS, bullying is taken seriously.

I should NOT:

- ✗ Hurt someone physically.
- ✗ Threaten or intimidate others.
- ✗ Repeatedly insult or embarrass someone.
- ✗ Exclude someone intentionally to hurt them.
- ✗ Spread rumors to harm another student.
- ✗ Post or share hurtful content online.
- ✗ Send threatening or humiliating messages.
- ✗ Share someone's private information, photos, or videos without appropriate permission.
- ✗ Encourage others to participate in bullying.

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Instead, I CAN:

- ☑ Be respectful.
- ☑ Include others.
- ☑ Report bullying.
- ☑ Save evidence of cyberbullying when safe and appropriate.
- ☑ Block or avoid harmful online interactions.
- ☑ Tell a trusted adult.
- ☑ Support someone who is being bullied.

TPS provides regular awareness and training related to **anti-bullying, digital safety, and emotional well-being**.

10. MY DIGITAL SAFETY

When I use phones, computers, tablets, social media, games, or online learning platforms, I will:

THINK BEFORE I POST.

I will:

- ✓ Protect my passwords and personal information.
- ✓ Avoid communicating with strangers in unsafe ways.
- ✓ Never send inappropriate photos or information.
- ✓ Never ask another student for inappropriate photos.
- ✓ Avoid posting content intended to embarrass or hurt another person.
- ✓ Report suspicious, threatening, or inappropriate online behavior.
- ✓ Tell a trusted adult if someone makes me feel unsafe online.

Remember:

What happens online can affect someone's real-life safety and well-being.

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11. RESPECTING DIFFERENCES

At TPS, **everyone deserves equal protection**. I will respect people regardless of their:

- ✓ Gender
- ✓ Nationality
- ✓ Ability
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Background
- ✓ Individual differences

Students with **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)** and **Gifted and Talented (G&T)** students have the same right to safety, protection, inclusion, and support as every other student.

TPS Core Values

As a TPS student, I will strive to demonstrate:

RESPECT
SELF-DISCIPLINE NATIONALISM
RECOGNITION OF DIVERSITY

12. WHO CAN HELP ME?

If you have a concern, **you can approach a trusted adult.**

Your trusted support persons may include:

Class Adviser
Your first person to approach for help.

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Child Protection Officer/Coordinator
The designated person who receives and manages student protection concerns.

Teachers and School Staff
Adults who can listen and help you report your concern.

Guidance Counselor
A person who can provide emotional and counseling support.

School Nurse
A person who can assist with health and safety concerns.

Parents/Guardians
Adults who can support and protect you.

School Administration
School leaders responsible for ensuring a safe school environment.

The official policy assigns specific responsibilities to the Principal, Child Protection Coordinator, Child Protection Team, faculty and staff, parents/guardians, and students.

13. IMPORTANT: REPORTING IS NOT "TELLING ON SOMEONE."

If you report that someone is being hurt, bullied, threatened, neglected, exploited, or placed in danger, **you are helping to protect that person.**

You are doing the right thing when you:

SEE IT → SPEAK UP → GET HELP → KEEP SOMEONE SAFE

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You do not need to know exactly what happened before asking for help.

If you are unsure, REPORT IT.

A trusted adult can help determine what needs to happen next.

14. WHAT TPS EXPECTS FROM ADULTS

Students should expect adults in school to:

- ✓ Maintain professional boundaries.
- ✓ Treat students respectfully.
- ✓ Avoid favoritism and inappropriate secrecy.
- ✓ Avoid inappropriate physical contact.
- ✓ Never use degrading language, threats, or physical punishment.
- ✓ Provide appropriate supervision.
- ✓ Report inappropriate behavior or suspected student maltreatment.

These expectations are specifically identified under **Acceptable Adult Conduct** in the TPS Student Protection Policy.

Remember:

An adult should never make you feel afraid, humiliated, threatened, or unsafe.

If something does not feel right, **tell a trusted adult.**

15. MY SAFETY CHECK

Ask yourself:

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DO I FEEL SAFE?

If YES — continue to make safe and respectful choices.

☐ AM I WORRIED OR UNSURE?

Talk to a trusted adult.

● AM I OR SOMEONE ELSE IN DANGER?

Get help **immediately** and contact the appropriate emergency authority when necessary.

16. MY STUDENT PROTECTION COMMITMENT

As a TPS Student, I Promise To:

- ☐ Respect myself and others.
- ☐ Follow the TPS Core Values.
- ☐ Help create a safe and inclusive school environment.
- ☐ Never intentionally hurt, threaten, bully, or humiliate another person.
- ☐ Use technology and social media responsibly.
- ☐ Respect differences and diversity.
- ☐ Speak up when I see or experience something unsafe.
- ☐ Report bullying, abuse, neglect, exploitation, or other harmful behavior.
- ☐ Ask for help when I need it.
- ☐ Support my classmates and help keep our school safe.

✸ TPS STUDENT SAFETY MESSAGE

**"I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE RESPECTED. I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD.

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I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT OTHERS. AND I HAVE THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP."

At The Philippine School Abu Dhabi, WE PROTECT. WE RESPECT. WE CARE.

This student-friendly version is based on the **TPS Student Protection Policy, Academic Year 2026–2027**, which is anchored in UAE child-protection requirements, including **Wadeema's Law**, ADEK requirements, the Philippine Department of Education Child Protection Policy, and TPS policies.

Policy reminder: The official policy may be revised when required by ADEK, UAE Federal Authorities, or TPS Management.

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