

**Shortened Version: Students and Parents  
MUIDS Safeguarding Policy (2023, Thailand).**

***“Putting Kids First”***

**Developed by the MUIDS Safeguarding and Child  
Protection Committee (SGCPC)**



## **Shortened Version of the MUIDS Safeguarding Policy (2023).**

### **Introduction**

At MUIDS, everyone should feel safe. We will do everything that we can to make sure that students are protected and feel safe for their learning. In order for this to happen, there are rules and policies to follow. This family friendly policy is to help you understand what safeguarding means and to help you decide what could be a problem. To review the full version of the policy, please see the link in the drop-down menu.

### **What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of all of our young people and to protect them from harm. Safeguarding means: protecting children from abuse and maltreatment; preventing harm to children's health or development; and taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

### **Reporting a Concern?**

MUIDS has a system in place for all members of our community to report a concern.

### **Staff at MUIDS agree that they should:**

- Protect you from harm.
- Make sure that nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly.
- Make sure that you are safely looked after.
- Make sure that you have the best life chances and can grow up happy and successful. Staff at MUIDS agree that, to make sure they look after you, they will:
- Make sure the school is a friendly, welcoming and supportive place to spend time in and somewhere you want to be.
- Be there for you to talk to if you need to and know who to ask for help.
- Give you safe messages to help you learn how to look after yourself, both online and in the real world.
- Have all of the right rules in place to help look after you. They will follow these rules all of the time (these rules are called policies).

### **Forward**

All adults working in or on behalf of MUIDS have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This includes:

- Providing a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Identifying children who may be in need of extra help and taking appropriate action.
- Understanding how to identify and protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

We believe that Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in the MUIDS family. All staff, volunteers, parents and guardians have a legal and moral responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students and should raise any concerns they have about poor or unsafe practice or worries about a child's safety. This Family Friendly Safeguarding Policy is a shortened version of the full version of the MUIDS SGP 2023.

# MUIDS Safeguarding Policy - Shortened Version

## 27 November, 2023.

### CONTENTS

- I. Purpose
- II. Guiding Framework
- III. Definitions
- IV. Roles & Responsibilities & Communication
- V. Protective Measures

### RELEVANT EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND REFERENCES

- I. **PURPOSE** This Safeguarding Policy (SGP) was created to prevent and address harm against students at Mahidol University International Demonstration School (MUIDS). It aims to provide MUIDS staff, students, and the families of MUIDS students with guidance and clarity on how to address suspected incidents of harm.
- II. **GUIDING FRAMEWORK** The Policy has been developed by reviewing child protection policies and procedures from the Thai Government, Thailand's Child Protection Act (2003), The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other legal instruments. MUIDS will adhere to its obligation to report suspected cases of harm guided by Thailand's (2016) domestic violence legislation and The Thailand *Education Act* (2016). Please see the full length SGP policy for details.
- III. **DEFINITIONS** For the purpose of this policy, the following terms will be understood as:

*"Child"* - consistent with the CRC, a child is defined as every human being under the age of 19 years. Any and all MUIDS students or other students from another school.

*"MUIDS Student"* - refers to any child enrolled at MUIDS as a student for either full time school year and or summer school.

*"MUIDS Staff"* - refers to any individual contractually employed by The Mahidol University International Demonstration School including but not limited to teachers; deputy directors, school director, and other administrative personnel; office workers; and, cleaning, food vendors, medical and maintenance workers.

*"Visitors"* - refers to any individual not contractually employed by The Mahidol University International Demonstration School including but not limited to teachers; and other administrative personnel; office workers; and, cleaning, medical, food vendors and Alumni, and maintenance workers; students and parents from other schools either domestic or abroad.

*"Harm"* - is an act, action or series of acts or actions, by one person or group of people against a student in one or more of the following forms: abuse, neglect, violence, or exploitation. There is overlap between some of the forms of harm, but the following definitions help to provide clarity for the purpose of this policy.

“*Abuse*” - the World Health Organization (2006) defines abuse as the intentional use of physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual force against a child that is likely to negatively impact a child’s health, survival, development or dignity.

“*Neglect*” - can be isolated incidents or a pattern of actions in which an adult fails to provide for the development and wellbeing of a child, where they are in a position to do so, in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions. Neglect is not necessarily an issue of wealth or poverty, rather of choice (World Health Organization, 2006).

“*Violence*” - The World Health Organization (2002) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against a child by another person or group, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological damage, or maldevelopment. In agreement with the UN Study on violence against children (Pineiro, 2006) MUIDS acknowledges that no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable.

“*Exploitation*” - refers to the use of a child in work or other activities for the benefit of others and to the detriment of the child’s physical or mental health, development and/or education. Exploitation includes but is not limited to: child labor and child prostitution (UNHCR, 2001).

“*Bullying*” - means repeated and hostile or demeaning behavior by an individual in the school community where the behavior is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation (*Education Act 2016*).

- IV. **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES** All staff, students, visitors and family members of MUIDS students have a role implementing the MUIDS Safeguarding Policy. The following roles, responsibilities and procedures have been developed to guide our community toward the collective aim of child protection at MUIDS.

**Safeguarding and Child Protection Committee (SGCPC)** - is a MUIDS committee. The SGCPC Committee President and overall guiding principles are the responsibility of the school director. The policy and its guiding principles contribute to the overall protective environment by leading activities and initiatives to prevent and address harm. SGCPC also works to build the capacity of its staff and educate MUIDS stakeholders about child protection issues and efforts to address those issues. The SGCPC is made up of MUIDS administrations, a legal advisor, two teachers, one parent and one student representative.

**Safeguarding Officers and Safeguarding Team (SGO)** - The MUIDS leadership team will identify staff members of a mixed gender and cultural grouping who will lead the documentation and reporting process for suspected cases of harm. The Safeguarding Team is made up of: 1 Designated Safeguarding Lead, 1 Designated Safeguarding Deputy Lead, 2 Designated Safeguarding Officers of one Thai and one foreign nationality. The safeguarding team is the primary personnel that all reports are submitted to and then processed.

**MUIDS Staff** - All employees are expected to read, understand, and uphold the *Safeguarding*

*Policy* and sign the *Adult Code of Conduct*. MUIDS staff are responsible for confidentially reporting suspected cases of harm against MUIDS students as detailed in the SG reporting procedures. All staff will read and sign the *Adult Code of Conduct*.

**MUIDS Students** - All students are expected to read, understand and uphold the *Safeguarding Policy Student Code of Conduct*. MUIDS students are responsible for confidentially reporting suspected cases of harm against MUIDS students. All students will read and sign the *Student Code of Conduct*.

**Parents/guardians of MUIDS Students** - All MUIDS parents and/or guardians are expected to read, understand and uphold the *Safeguarding Policy* and when relevant sign the *Adult Code of Conduct* when visiting the MUIDS campus. Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to ensure that their students understand the *Safeguarding Policy* in line with their evolving capacity.

## COMMUNICATION

**Confidentiality** All staff are likely at some point to witness actions which need to be kept confidential. In such cases these actions should not be discussed outside the school, including with a student's parent or guardian, nor with colleagues in the school, except with a member of the MUIDS administrative team. Staff must not promise a student that they will not act on information that they are told if the information is connected to the wellbeing of that student or another student.

**Three limits to confidentiality:** **1.** Intent to harm oneself. **2.** Intent to harm others. **3.** Current harm to self or others harming someone or being harmed. If one of those 3 are present, you must inform the person that you have to report it to the Designated Safeguarding Team.

**Social Media & Online Contact with Children** MUIDS supports the use of media and social media as effective tools for learning. Teachers and students are expected to use only approved MUIDS sites and media.

V. **PROTECTIVE MEASURES** MUIDS has a variety of policies and protective measures currently in place that also contribute to preventing and/or addressing harm against students, including but not limited to:

- Relevant curriculum and educational activities i.e., Health Curriculum & School Wide Wellbeing and Safety
  - Safeguarding and Child Protection training
  - Code Conduct for Adult and Students
  - Ongoing SPG Policy review aligned with WASC accreditation cycle
  - Campus access protocols
  - Classroom Visits by counselors (Lessons on Relationships, Bullying, Consent, Harm, Online Protection, etc.)
  - Designated Adult/Student separate toilets.
- On-site security guards
- CCTV cameras, other equipment and infrastructure

## RELEVANT EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND REFERENCES

### a) Childline Thailand

Website: [www.childlinethailand.org](http://www.childlinethailand.org)

Phone (admin): 02 623 3814. Phone (child help line): 1387

Pomprab District Bangkok 10100

Childline Thailand is built upon a centralized call center model. The call center, located in Bangkok, handles every phone call from all over the country. The call center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### b) The Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation (CPCR)

Website: [www.thaichildrights.org](http://www.thaichildrights.org)

Phone: 02 412 1196

979 Charansanitwong 12 Road Wat Tha Phra, Bangkokokoyai, Bangkok 10600

E-mail: [cpcrheadoffice1981@gmail.com](mailto:cpcrheadoffice1981@gmail.com)

**Mission Statement:** CPCR is devoted to protecting the children of Thailand from all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation so prevalent in the country today.

### c) ECPAT International

Website: [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)

Phone: 02 215 3388. Address: 328/1 Phaya Thai Road, Bangkok 10400

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) is a non-governmental organization and a global network of civil society organizations exclusively dedicated to ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

### d) The Prachabodi Centre 1300

This organization deals with human trafficking.

Website: [www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org)

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