STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY

Student-Friendly

Academic Year 2026 – 2027

Your Safety and Protection at Belvedere British School

This policy is all about making sure that **you and every student at BBS are safe, respected, and protected** so you can learn and grow without worry. You have the right to a safe school life!

What We Promise to You

At BBS, your safety is the most important thing. We promise to:

- Always put **your best interests and safety first** in everything we do.
- Have a **zero-tolerance** policy for all forms of **maltreatment.**
- Make sure all staff and volunteers know how to protect you.

Your Rights as a Student

You have the right to:

- Be **treated with dignity, respect, fairness, and justice.**
- Be **safe and protected from harm**, and know what harm and risk look like.
- Be **heard** and share your voice or opinion.
- Be **supported by an advocate** (someone who helps you) if you ever need it.

What Does "Maltreatment" Mean?

"Maltreatment" means any action or lack of action that hurts or puts a student at risk. It's when someone does or says something that makes you feel unsafe, unloved, or worthless.
Here are the main types:

Type of Maltreatment	What It Means
Physical Abuse	An action that causes or could cause physical injury or harm to your body.
Emotional Abuse	Actions (like insults or put-downs) that make you feel worthless, unloved, or interfere with your positive mental and emotional growth.
Sexual Abuse	Involving you in any sexual activity that is inappropriate or that you don't fully understand. This can be between an adult and a student, or between two students, where one is in a position of trust or power.
Neglect	When a parent or supervising adult fails to provide for your basic needs, like food, safety, or medical care, it harms or risks harming your health and well-being. At BBS, we also include **self-neglect** (when you neglect your own needs).
Exploitation	Using you in work or other activities for the benefit of others, which is bad for your health, education, or development. This includes **sexual** or **economic exploitation** (like illegal child labour).
Bullying	**Repeated physical, social, or verbal aggression** used by a student or group who feels they have power against someone they think is weaker. This hurts the student physically or emotionally. This includes **Cyberbullying** (bullying online).

Getting Help: How to Report a Concern

If you or another student is being mistreated, is at risk, or just feel unsafe, **you must tell someone**.

All staff at BBS (teachers, counsellors, staff, and volunteers are **mandated reporters**, which means they are required by law to report any concerns.

To Whom Can You Report a Concern?

You can safely report your concerns to:

1. The **Child Protection Coordinator (CPC).** This person is specially trained to help students with protection concerns. (Ms. Mouza - Social Worker – m.aldhaheri@belvederebritishschool.com)
   Ext. 130
2. Any other **member of the Child Protection Team (CPT).**
   a. (Ms. Mariam - Social Worker Support – m.almansoori@belvederebritishschool.com);
   b. (Ms. Mariam - ADEK Representative – m.sultan@belvederebritishschool.com)
3. **Any BBS Staff Member** (a teacher, librarian, administrator, etc.). They will report it immediately to the CPC.
4. The **BBS Principal** – r.thorn@belvederebritishschool.com

Important: If you feel the person you told is unable to help, or if telling the CPC is not in your best interest, you can ask a trusted adult to help you report directly to the authorities (ADEK CPU or Family Care Authority). Your teachers will train you on this!



What if it's an Emergency?

If you or another student is in **immediate danger**, the staff member or CPC must call the **Police (999)** right away!

Your Information is Private

When you report a concern, the details about you and the situation are **strictly confidential.** They will only be shared with the people who are officially authorised to investigate and help, like the ADEK Child Protection Unit (CPU) or the Police.
You will not be penalised or punished for reporting a concern or asking for help.
Do you have any questions about any of these rights or procedures?

Review and Approval

Review Date: June 2026 **Next Review Date:** June 2027

Approved by:

Mr Robert Charles Thorn — Principal

Dr. Eman Atitallah/Dr. Rawaa Al Jumeily — BBS Board of Governors

School Stamp