

Child Protection Policy

This policy was established and adopted in November 2022 by LWIS-City International School (LWIS-CiS) in partnership with Himaya and will be reviewed on a biannual basis, unless there is a need for an immediate change in policy.

Himaya is a Lebanese non-governmental organization founded in 2009 and dedicated to protecting children from all forms of abuse. It operates across the Lebanese territory and offers services that cover a large spectrum of intervention: prevention, psychosocial follow-up, raising awareness about child abuse, advocacy, capacity building, research and development.

Acronyms

CPP – Child Protection Policy

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon

CPO – Child Protection Officer

CPC – Child Protection Committee

CRC – [UN] Convention on the Rights of the Child

MoSA – Ministry of Social Affairs

Definitions

- Child
- Child Protection
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Suspicion of Child Abuse
- Imminent Risk
- Potential Risk

→ Child

For the purpose of this document, a “child” is defined as anyone under the age of 18, in line with the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Lebanese Law 422**, or older in case they are still students at LWIS-CiS.

→ Child Protection

The processes involved in consideration, assessment and planning of required action, together with the actions themselves, where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

→ Child Abuse and Neglect

Refers to all forms of physical and emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, development or dignity.

→ Suspicion of Child Abuse

Any event or occurrence that leads to any doubt of an abusive situation. Suspicions do not need to be verified by the reporter nor justified by proof before they are reported; doubt is sufficient to inform an authority.

→ Imminent Risk

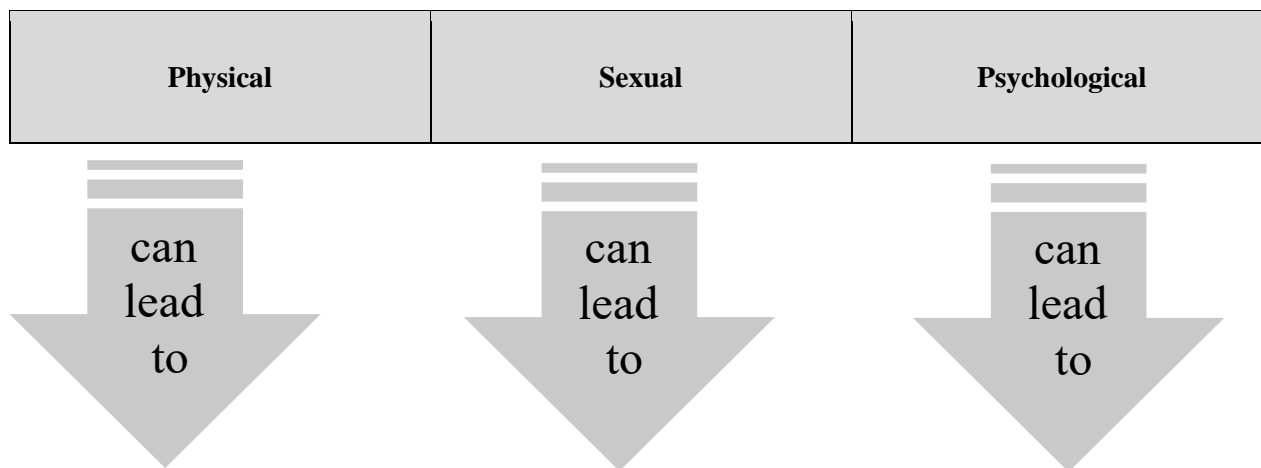
All forms of abuse, threats or other circumstances endangering the safety and development of a child that require immediate judicial measures to prevent serious harm. These cases are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice (Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon– SOP).

→ Potential Risk

Threats that can affect the development and safety of a child but do not require immediate judicial measures. These cases are the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Affairs and partner child protection organizations. (Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon– SOP).

Types of Abuse

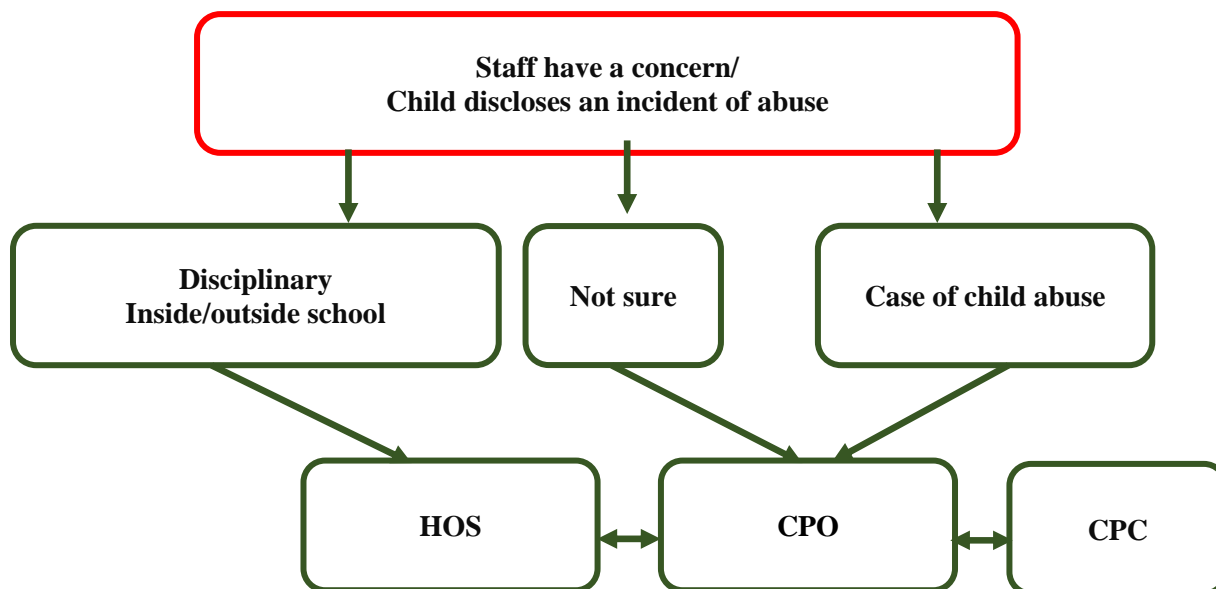
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Non-accidental physical injury to the child often resulting in physical impairment of the child. Examples include striking, kicking, burning, shaking or biting the child.</p>	<p><u>Neglect</u></p> <p>The ongoing failure– to meet the child basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, emotional support and supervision) to the degree that the child’s health, safety, and wellbeing are threatened with harm.</p>
<p><u>Sexual</u></p> <p>Sexual abuse refers to any form of sexual activity or act with a child by an adult or by another child who is in a position of responsibility, trust, or authority over the child.</p>	<p><u>Psychological</u></p> <p>A pattern of aggressive and negative interaction with a child, which includes attitudes, behaviors, or hostile speech, and can seriously interfere with a child’s cognitive, emotional, psychological or social development.</p>



Bullying

The recurrent use of intimidation or coercion unto a peer. It’s a form of aggressive behavior that is characterized by the existence of a power imbalance, hostile intent and recurrent behavior.

Disclosure of Abuse - Referral Map:



Appendix 1: LWIS-CiS's Referral Pathway and Procedure

