

Safeguarding - Frequently Asked Questions

1. A safeguarding policy is not a mandatory requirement of schools in my country – do I still need to provide one?

Yes. ARTICLE 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states: *The state must do all it can to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, bad treatment or exploitation by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.*

OxfordAQA values the safety and wellbeing of every student and requires assurance from the schools we work with that if we raise a safeguarding concern, it will be dealt with promptly and appropriately. Therefore, a safeguarding policy is a requirement in our approval process.

2. Can OxfordAQA provide a safeguarding policy template?

A safeguarding policy sets out how your centre responds to safeguarding concerns. It is not possible for us to provide a template for this as it will differ in every school, in every country.

It is possible to view safeguarding policies that other schools have drafted online, to gain insight into what good practice looks like. However, we would advise against adopting another school's policy in its entirety as it is unlikely that another school's policy will reflect what would happen in your school, especially if it is from a school in a different country or a different context.

3. Where can I get help with writing a safeguarding policy?

You will already have strategies for safeguarding at your school, though you may not refer to the term 'safeguarding', or have all of the relevant information gathered in one document.

A good place to start is to ask yourself:

- Who would I go to if I was concerned that a student was being harmed?
- What would happen after I raised my concern?
- What are the local arrangements or laws to keep children safe from harm and abuse?
- How do we ensure the staff we employ are safe to be around students?
- What would I do if I was worried about another staff members behaviour towards a student?

The answers to these questions will form the basis of your safeguarding policy.

Useful links/resources

Association of Child Protection Professionals

https://www.childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsp6pBhCfARIsAD3GZuac5nNdfbPLzpyqGDW-iJFqMsogpdpqepKpsm6G8CBOyLJDA5BwuK4aApbNEALw_wcB

Council for International Schools

[Council of International Schools | International Education Organisation \(cois.org\)](https://www.cois.org/)

International Taskforce on Child Protection

<https://www.cois.org/about-cis/news/post/~board/perspectives-blog/post/international-taskforce-on-child-protections-new-areas-of-focus-a-call-for-volunteers>

Council of British International Schools

<https://www.cobis.org.uk/>