

The Independent Schools Association (ISA) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and all **National Governing Bodies** requirements. This policy is written in line with statutory guidance on [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and the [Child Protection in Sport Unit](#).

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at an **ISA** event in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in an **ISA** event

It is not the responsibility of any of the **ISA** event staff to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate officer or the appropriate authorities. This policy is written in line with statutory guidance on [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSiE).

Under KCSiE, each school will have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Any cause for concern should be raised with the school DSL, in the usual way, in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy. Where cause for concern is noted on a pupil from another school, you should contact the relevant school and ask to speak to their DSL. If a crime is alleged, it is appropriate to inform the police directly. Guidance will then be given by the Police with regards to the next course of action. Where concerns are about child abuse, this may lead to a referral to children's services who may involve the police. If concerns are about an incident occurring at an ISA event or about a member of the event staff, please also contact the DSL for the **ISA** directly [here](#).

As part of our safeguarding policy the **ISA** will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- at ISA events we will ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse reported to **ISA** and provide support to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the running of an **ISA** event. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay.

Statement

The Independent Schools Association is committed to protecting the health, safety and well-being of all children at its events.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and therefore all staff attending an event have a mandatory responsibility to act in accordance with this policy. All schools also have a responsibility to ensure that their children and staff are aware of their school's safeguarding procedures and protocols.

This policy should be read alongside **ISA's** [Code of Conduct for Sport](#).

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed every year.
(Last reviewed July 2021)