

Schule Schloss Salem

Child Protection Policy (CCP)

Policy on the protection of children and adolescents at Schule Schloss Salem

1. Educational context

Since its foundation in 1920, Schule Schloss Salem has been committed to an educational philosophy where young people are challenged to take on responsibility. This concept depends on the health and well-being of every individual member of the school community.

The school management and members of staff of Schule Schloss Salem have a duty to care for children and adolescents who are members of the school community. These individuals (pupils) are the legal wards of Schule Schloss Salem. In this respect Schule Schloss Salem supports and protects each pupil's dignity and personal integrity. Children's rights as defined by the German constitution, civil law and social statutes as well as the UN convention on the Rights of the Child form the basis of our policy.

2. Responsibilities of the School Management

2.1 The School Management ensures;

- 2.1.1 that responsible members of staff take necessary steps to protect and reinforce the self-esteem and self-confidence of each pupil;
- 2.1.2 that all members of the school community (pupils and members of staff) experiencing personal difficulty or who recognise a need in others have a responsible person to turn to;
- 2.1.3 that parents of pupils who have experienced mistreatment are informed promptly and appropriately by a member of the school management. In the event of an incident involving sexual abuse the Public Prosecutor will also be informed following the agreement of the pupil's parents or legal guardian;
- 2.1.4 that opportunities for external counselling and support are available to pupils and their families, should this be deemed appropriate.

2.2 The School Management is committed to fostering a supportive, protective environment in which members of the school community can flourish in that;

- 2.2.1 threats to the safety of members of the school community are identified (eg. fire) and require the preparation and review of alarm plans in cooperation with relevant competent authorities. There is a designated crisis team at each school site, ready to react in a prescribed manner should an emergency situation arise. An external emergency telephone also exists.

The school management ensures professional care and support for its pupils and encourages behaviour that reflects a mutual respect between all members of the school community.

2.2.2 Members of staff are recruited and trained with the requirements of child protection in mind. A new contract of employment is signed only after confirmation of police clearance or presentation of an authorised certificate of good conduct.

2.2.3 Members of staff are made aware of the issues of mistreatment and abuse. They are also informed of the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil has been mistreated in some way.

This applies not only to teaching staff, but also non-teaching and support staff, trainee teachers and freelance staff, all of whom are informed of this policy and its implications.

2.2.4 the observance of pupils' rights is upheld at all times and necessary strategies for assurance are adapted according to new and relevant guidelines as they are published. The handbook *Prevention of and Intervention in Sexual Violence to Girls and Boys in Schools* published by the State of Baden Württemberg (September 2010) is particularly valid in this context.

3. Responsibilities of members of staff:

3.1 All adults employed at Schule Schloss Salem who work directly with pupils (see 2.2.3) share a responsibility for their well-being. Members of staff are obliged to report any incident where the rights of the children under their care are violated to the school management (see 3.2), including cases where this violation is brought about by fellow pupils. This report is confidential and is not for the attention of any other third party. Not only teaching staff, but also non-teaching and support staff, trainee teachers and freelance staff, declare, that they will act according to this Policy.

3.2 The senior school management (Geschäftsführung) and the case-appropriate boarding school head must be informed of every case of mistreatment of a pupil for whom they are responsible. The case in question is dealt with confidentially and, after advice has been sought, a decision is made as to the involvement of further parties.

Similarly they will decide if involvement of medical, pastoral or counselling professionals is desirable to ensure a response appropriate to the needs of the pupil in question and others who may be involved.

3.3 Members of staff are approachable, supportive and encourage pupils in their academic and personal development. At the same time they maintain a professional distance, respecting pupils' privacy. Due to the nature of their work, staff responsible for boarding houses throughout the school, as well as other colleagues involved in supporting the boarding school, develop close relationships with the pupils entrusted to their care.

Members of staff avoid situations in which their actions or words may be misunderstood or misrepresented.

Specifically, physical and verbal abuse is neither permitted nor is it justifiable. This is also applicable to jokes, allusions and remarks etc. that discriminate or affect a person's privacy.

4. Responsibilities of the students

- 4.1. All pupils at Schule Schloss Salem share responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of their fellow pupils. It is their duty, when aware of violations of the rights of other pupils, to ask the perpetrator(s) to stop acting in a hurtful way. Should this course of action prove unsuccessful, it is a pupil's duty to report the case.
- 4.2 It is not permitted to use physical violence or verbal abuse. This is also applicable to jokes, allusions and remarks, etc. that discriminate or affect a person 's privacy.
- 4.3. Any violence against fellow-pupils may, upon prior review of the individual case, lead to expulsion from the school and boarding school.
- 4.4. Pupils who experience violence personally or witness it in their surroundings should inform members of the school staff or call the Helpline number **07551 94 99 794, 0152 53 56 54 88** or **0176 312 08361**.
It is the school's responsibility to remind pupils of this procedure at the beginning of each new school year.

5. Suspected abuse – identification and response

5.1. What is meant by mistreatment of a pupil?

5.1.1 Neglect:

the result of ignoring a child's developmental needs or not providing adequate supervision.

5.1.2 Emotional mistreatment:

rejecting a child, refusing to acknowledge a child or deliberately making him unhappy through verbal abuse.

5.1.3 Physical mistreatment:

the result of the use of excessive physical force by an adult or a fellow pupil.

5.1.4 Sexual abuse:

In addition to the criminal acts defined by German criminal law this policy applies when a member of staff makes or attempts to initiate contact of a sexual nature with a pupil regardless of whether that pupil, a ward of the school, is of full legal age or not.

Furthermore this policy applies to sexual contact between pupils which one of those involved does not understand, cannot give consent to, and/or which cause emotional and/or physical harm. Inappropriate behaviour, which harms another person, as well as touching are expressly included in this definition.

5.1.5 Abuse with help of media

The breach of personal rights (informational self-determination and data protection) of staff and pupils by illegal use of digital or other media.

5.2. How may mistreatment be revealed?

Behaviour that is out of character is not in itself an indication of mistreatment. Nonetheless, there are three ways in which the suspicion of mistreatment may be raised:

5.2.1 through observations of signs and symptoms:

- unusual behaviour,
- unexplained injuries,

- emotional withdrawal – showing lack of trust in adults,
- eating problems,
- not growing or putting on weight,
- timidity and nervousness,
- mood-swings or aggression,
- deterioration in academic work or under-achievement,
- tiredness;

5.2.2 through allegations or reports of mistreatment made by another person, perhaps a concerned pupil or parent;

5.2.3 by admission from the child that he is being mistreated.

5.3. Response when mistreatment is suspected or reported:

5.3.1 If any member of staff:

- suspects that mistreatment is occurring,
- identifies a case of mistreatment,
- is concerned that school practices or the behaviour of others may be putting a child at risk

he must

- record relevant information on an 'incident report form,
- not make any attempt to investigate the incident himself,
- treat the incident with strict confidentiality and report it to the school management or the relevant boarding school head immediately.

5.3.2. If a member of staff has an incident, complaint or suspicion reported to him, he must

- immediately stop any other activity to listen,
- not ask leading questions,
- not give assurances of confidentiality, but guarantee that only those that need to know will be informed, after the conversation:
- record relevant information on an 'Incident Report Form,
- not make any attempt to investigate the incident themselves,
- treat the incident with strict confidentiality and report it to the school's senior management or the relevant boarding school head immediately.

Appendix: Child Protection Incident Form**Private and Confidential**

Reported by:	
Date:	
Pupil(s) involved:	
Location of incident:	
Others involved:	
Description of incident:	
Witnesses:	
Date and signature:	

- **Complete this form as soon as possible after the incident.**
- **Record only facts, not opinions, rumour or hearsay.**
- **After reporting the incident it should not be discussed with other parties.**