

Child Protection Policy:

This policy which underpins the approach to children to ensure that all children at KPS are able to thrive – from the security at school to understanding child development and what children need to succeed.

Reporting of Child Abuse

Children and the people who work with them in any context – including educators and coaches – are accountable to the highest law in South Africa governing the rights and wellbeing of children. The Children's Act 38 of 2005, refers to all people working with children are mandatory reporters.

A mandatory reporter by law includes all individuals working with children. As a result of their profession, these individuals are required to report any disclosure or suspicion of child abuse to the relevant authorities.

Abuse include physical, emotional, sexual and neglect.

The KPS Policy for managing concerns or disclosures of children of concern when it comes to abuse is as follows:

- Child Discloses incident or risk factors to a trusted adult.
- Confidentiality is explained: This is different to secrecy and includes explaining to the child concerned what the process will be without making any promises of outcomes. This aspect of safeguarding children is reinforced by the school social worker as well as educators in empowering children to know their rights and speak up when there are matters of concern.
- Matter is reported to school social worker (if this was disclosed to a different staff member by the child).
- A form 22 is completed by the staff member to whom the child disclosed and/or the school social worker.
- The school will inform you that by law this is the process that has to be taken.
- This will be passed on to the relevant mandated statutory organisation and a designated social worker will follow up on the report. Please note that only statutory social workers have the role to investigate and determine the appropriate next steps in accordance with the Children's Act.
- The roll of the school is to continue offering psychosocial support as is appropriate, and work in partnership with the statutory social worker to continue to ensure the wellbeing of the child.