

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Name of Organisation: **PAGE SCHOOLS**

Location: **PLOT 234 CADASTRAL ZONE B14, DUTSE DISTRICT, APO (OPPOSITE BRAINS AND HAMMERS ESTATE), ABUJA**

Purpose of organisation: **CRECHE, EARLY YEARS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

Page Schools recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. We therefore take seriously our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young children.

**Child** – any person under 18 years as provided by the Child's Rights Law 2007 Laws of Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria

We will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse

### **THE POLICY**

Page Schools recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly Page Schools has adopted the policy contained in this document (hereafter "the policy"). The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against staff and volunteers. Page Schools recognises the need to build constructive links with the child care agencies. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with International Child Protection Procedures and Federal Capital Territory Child's Protection policy. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all staff and volunteers who act on behalf of Page Schools and who come directly into contact with children. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person in respect of child protection or their deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The designated person must decide if the concerns should be communicated to the parents and inevitably the appropriate child protection agencies of the Federal Capital Territory and the police.

### **GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT.**

**PAGE SCHOOLS** RECOGNISES THAT:-

1. The welfare of the child is paramount as enshrined by the Child's Rights Law, 2007

2. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, religious beliefs, ethnicity, disability or socio-economic background have a right to equal protection for all types of abuse.
3. Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, dependency, communication needs or other issues
4. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other relevant agencies is essential in promoting children's welfare.

## **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION.**

**PAGE SCHOOLS** WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE BY:-

- a) Protecting and valuing them, listening to and protecting them,
- b) Creating an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image,
- c) Encouraging children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development,
- d) Providing a safe and secure environment for all children,
- e) Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers,
- f) Sharing concerns with relevant agencies and involving parents and children appropriately.
- g) Promote and prioritize the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- h) Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognize, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- i) Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- j) Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- k) Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- l) Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

## **DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE**

### **Abuse**

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

### **Physical Abuse**

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting; by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after.

## **Emotional Abuse**

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

## **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

## **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or

- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### **What you should do if you suspect abuse**

1. You must report concerns as soon as possible to Ms Doofan-Primary (07031063533) and Ms Tochi-Nursery (07062051970) and Mr Adekunle- Secondary (07039601741) (Designated Child Protection Persons) who are nominated by Page Schools to act on their behalf in referring allegations of suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. In the absence of the designated person, the matter should be brought to the attention of the deputy designated person Ms Agwu (**08105721060**). If it is an emergency, and the designated persons cannot be contacted, then Mrs Ogbeche, the School Head should be contacted -08023121935.
2. If the suspicions relate to the designated persons, then the School Head, Mrs Ogbeche should be contacted.
3. Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.
4. Where you feel that your concerns have not been handled satisfactorily, please get in touch with the school head, Mrs. Ogbeche

### **Allegations of physical injury, emotional abuse or neglect**

If a child has an injury which may be a non-accidental injury, or symptoms of neglect and a referral is to be made then:

1. The designated person should contact the School Head, Mrs. Ogbeche. If there has been a deliberate injury or where there are concerns about the child's safety.
2. Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The designated person should inform the doctor of any suspicion of abuse.
3. If a referral is being made without the parent's knowledge and non-urgent medical treatment is required, speak to the parent/carer and suggest medical attention be sought for the child.

### **Allegations of sexual abuse**

In the event of allegations of sexual abuse the designated person will:

1. Contact the School Head, Mrs Ogbeche immediately. The designated person will not speak to the parents.
2. Under no circumstances should the designated person, or any other member of the organisation, attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the designated person is to collect the exact details of the allegations or suspicion and to provide this information to the School Head, Mrs. Ogbeche or child protection agencies that will investigate the matter. (Contact Details available in the office)

## **What to do once a child has talked to you about abuse**

1. Make a note immediately of what the child has said, writing down exactly what the child has said, write down what you said in reply, when they said it and what was happening immediately beforehand. Record dates and times of the events and when the record was made. Keep all notes secure.
2. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.
3. Once a child has talked about abuse the designated person must consider if it is safe for a child to return home to a potentially abusive situation. Especially if parents/care givers are not around.
4. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated. The allegation must be reported to the School Head immediately who will investigate the matter. Where there are concerns that a child might be put in danger of abuse, or has suffered abuse owing to the actions of a member of staff or volunteer, because of the investigation, the member of staff will be asked to go on unpaid suspension pending the outcome of the investigation.
5. Where the outcome of the investigation shows that the member of staff is guilty of the abuse, he /she will be asked to leave Page Schools.

## **Contact Details**

### **Designated Child Protection Persons-**

**Ms Doofan-Primary (07031063533)**

**Mrs Tochi-Nursery (07062051970)**

**Mr Adekunle- Secondary (07039601741)**

**Deputy Designated Person – Ms Agwu (08105721060)**

## **NATIONAL OR SUPPORT BODIES FOR PAGE SCHOOLS, APO**

- |  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>1. SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE</b>                 | <b>-</b> | <b>08078111126</b>  |
| <b>2. FCT GBV REFERRAL AND RESPONSE CENTRE</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>08078111126,</b><br><b>08000222222</b>   |
| <b>3. NAPTIP</b>                               | <b>-</b> | <b>07030000203</b><br><b>- <a href="mailto:INFO@NAPTIP.GOV.NG">INFO@NAPTIP.GOV.NG</a></b> |
| <b>4. NIGERIAN POLICE, APO</b>                 | <b>-</b> | <b>08068019674</b>  |



## PERSON IN CHARGE

**DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER**  
**THE NAME OF THE DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER IS**

Ms Doofan -Pry/Ms Tochi-Nursery/Mr Adekunle-Secondary

## GATHER INFORMATION

Ensure you have a full report from the person who identified the abuse. Offer them support. Get them to sign the report. Tell them what actions you will take. Call the Child Protection Unit(CPU) and discuss your concerns.  
CPU will tell you if you need to do a formal report about your concerns.

## REPORT ABUSE

Call CPU on 0907-733-3426 and tell them:

Your own name and contact details  
Name of child/children (also known as/nicknames)  
Date of birth (if known)  
Name of caregivers, parents and other family members and current living situation  
Current legal custodians  
Reasons why it is believed that the child has been abused  
Other significant background information  
Any concerns for your physical safety in making this notification.

ASK WHAT HAPPENS NEXT – get timeframe



