ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
P.O. Box: 52232, DUBAI - U.A.E.
Tel. : +(971) 4 3370252 E-mail : maryscol@emirates.net.ae
Fax : +(971) 4 3368119 website : www.stmarysdubai.com

مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية
ص.ب. ٥٢٢٣٢، دبي – الإمارات العربية المتحدة
هاتف : ٣٣٧٠٢٥٢ ٤ ٩٧١+ بريد إلكتروني : maryscol@emirates.net.ae
فاكس : ٣٣٦٨١١٩ ٤ ٩٧١+ موقع ويب : www.stmarysdubai.com

OUR REF : .....

TRN : 100259955100003

Friday, 20 November 2026.

To: Parents of ALL students at the school

INTRODUCING THE NEW SAFEGUARDING AND LEARNER PROTECTION FRAMEWORK FROM KHDA

Dear Parents,

At **St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai**, the safety, wellbeing, and dignity of every student are at the heart of everything we do. Safeguarding children whether at home, or at school or outside school will always be the primary priority of every single adult who has a duty of care towards a child. We are writing to share an important update regarding the new **Policy Framework for Safeguarding and Learner Protection**, recently launched by Dubai's **Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA)**.

This unified, emirate-wide framework strengthens how private educational institutions protect students from harm—including bullying, cyberbullying, abuse, neglect, and exploitation—across both physical and online learning environments as well as any form of abuse in their home environments. It reinforces that safeguarding is a shared responsibility between our school leadership, staff, learners, and families. ,

What This Means for Your Child and Family

While student protection has always been our highest priority, the new KHDA directives introduce clearer, standardized practices across private schools in Dubai.

- **Dedicated Safeguarding Leadership:**
  Our safeguarding efforts will be overseen by a designated Safeguarding Governor and led day-to-day by our **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**, supported by trained Deputy DSLs.

- **Whole-School Vigilance & Training:**
  Every adult on our campus—from teachers and counsellors to administrative, facilities, and transport staff—undergoes mandatory background checks and specialized training to recognize, respond to, and report any safety or wellbeing concerns without delay.

- **Safe Communication & Online Protection:**
  All communication between staff and students will take place strictly through official, school-approved channels and platforms, ensuring safe and transparent boundaries both in person and online.Please remind children to only use their teacher's official email or Google classroom to communicate with their teachers about any academic work or non-academic activities or events. Parents will also have to monitor their children's use of digital devices and ensure that all UAE cybersecurity laws and age restrictions for social media are being upheld strictly and enforced at home.

- **Student Voice & Support:**
  We are committed to ensuring every student knows how to speak up if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable either in school or at home or with any adult or peer in their lives, with age-appropriate guidance, counselling support, and clear reporting pathways.

- **Proactive Wellbeing & Attendance Care:**
  Our staff closely monitor student wellbeing and attendance patterns so we can reach out early and partner with you whenever a child may need extra care or support. **As per the new framework, the school will have to notify KHDA when a learner reaches 5 consecutive days of unjustified absence or 10% sporadic absence in a term.** Parents are urged to take this very seriously and not keep children away from school unless there is a valid medical reason for which a medical certificate is the best evidence to go on record. Other emergencies will also required supporting evidence to be kept on file for KHDA review.

What happens next?

- The school will review its policies and practices surrounding safeguarding and learner protection and communicate these with you during the coming months.
- Updated safeguarding training across the staff depending on new roles and responsibilities.
- Safe recruitment training for staff dealing with recruitment of new staff/teachers.

- Review and update of all policies related to the new framework to include all policies recently reviewed before the release of the new framework.
- Curriculum review will look at integrating age-appropriate content related to cyberbullying, digital safety, anti-bullying, substance abuse, emotional intelligence, resilience, wellbeing etc.

We encourage you to explore the Policy Framework for Safeguarding and Learning Protection via this link:

https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Main-directive-Safeguarding-Policy-Framework_EN.pdf

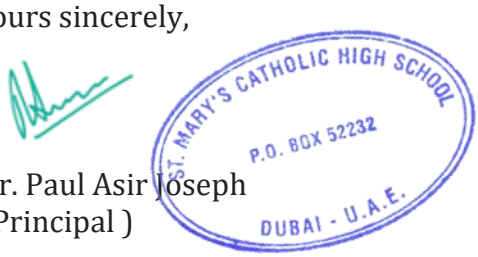
and access the Parent guide via this link:

https://www.stmarysdubai.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Parents-Guide-Safeguarding-and-learner-proection_EN.pdf

https://www.stmarysdubai.com/khda-news/

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership as we work together to keep our school a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment for every learner

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)