

WE WORK HARD FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND

Every year we work with two million children and young people worldwide through our teaching centres and education projects. This figure grows to nine million if we also count those children and young people we work with indirectly in exams and cultural projects.

Every one of you is important to us and you can be sure that we value, respect and take care of you for your security and peace of mind. We recognise that your wellbeing is of the utmost importance and that you all have a right to be protected from any form of abuse or ill-treatment.

At the British Council our commitment to the protection of children and young people is shared by all of us in the organisation as well as by our partners and service providers.

We want all of you to feel safe with us at the British Council. Here are our commitments to you:

- We listen to you
- We select our professional staff with great care to ensure that everyone follows our systems and procedures in child protection
- We give trustworthy advice to you and your parents or carers about the importance of being safe
- We firmly believe that all of us are equal, no matter what race, religion, age, whether we have any form of disability or whatever socio-economic background we come from. We are all equal, and we all have the right to feel safe and protected.

If for whatever reason you feel that something is not right, your teacher or any other member of our staff will always be available to listen to you and help you.

BRITISH COUNCIL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

What is bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, or gender. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

UK Government Department for Education

Please do not deal with bullying yourself in class. Tell a teacher.

Bullying does not just mean hitting. It can include:

- name calling, laughing at others' mistakes
- deliberately excluding someone from the social group (e.g. not playing/working with someone or not letting someone sit with you)

- spreading rumours about someone
- taking someone's things without permission
- kicking, pushing, punching, taking other students' things
- saying nasty things to people
- and any number of other small cruelties

Cyberbullying is unfortunately a very real threat as we move into an era with so many technological advances.

Cyber bullying can include:

- using the internet to threaten people
- sending nasty emails, text or instant messages
- using social media groups to talk about other people
- making jokes on social media and groups which may cause offense to others
- taking photos or videos of others without their consent

The British Council takes bullying behaviour very seriously.

- It is important to us that every student who studies here can do so happily.
- We always listen to students' opinions
- We will investigate any problem seriously and in a caring, confidential manner and most of all fairly (we listen to everybody's point of view).

If you are not happy we want you to tell us. First you should tell your parents. Then you should tell your teacher privately after class or in breaks. If you cannot speak to your teacher, there are other staff members who can help you.

Also if you think that someone you know is being treated badly by other students we want you to come and tell us. Doing this shows great solidarity to your school mates and strength of character.

The British Council has achieved 'Keeping Children Safe Level 1 Certification' – there is a comprehensive child safeguarding framework in place that meets the standards for protecting children from harm and responding appropriately to concerns should they occur.