

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



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Dear GFS Families,

This week marks the start of Digital Safety Awareness Week at GFS. Our students will be participating in a variety of activities to promote safe, responsible digital behaviour. Over the next two weeks, we're pleased to welcome Dubai Police to our assemblies, where they will speak with our secondary students about their online responsibilities and the potential consequences of misuse.

In anticipation of World Children's Day, which takes place later in the month, the theme of this newsletter focuses on **positive parenting**. We hope this edition provides helpful insights and strategies for fostering supportive, interactions with your children. If you would like any support with parenting or any other aspect of safeguarding, you are welcome to contact me or any member of the GFS Safeguarding Team.



Positive Parenting Strategies: Building a Safe, Supportive Environment

At GFS, we are dedicated to promoting positive parenting strategies that support children's growth and well-being, in line with Wadeema's Law, which protects children's rights in the UAE. This law explicitly states that all forms of physical punishment are illegal, underscoring the importance of nurturing approaches both at home and in school. Research has shown that physical punishment can have lasting negative impacts on children, including increased aggression, lower self-esteem, anxiety, and difficulties in forming positive relationships.

Positive parenting provides an effective alternative, focusing on open communication and understanding. By setting clear, consistent boundaries and using positive reinforcement, we create an environment where children understand expectations and feel valued. These methods promote emotional resilience, self-discipline, and empathy.

Our school staff have a legal and ethical duty of care to ensure the safety and welfare of all students. In line with Wadeema's Law, our team is trained to recognise and respond to any concerns that children may express, especially if they feel unsafe. Should a child raise a concern or if we observe signs of distress, we address each matter with sensitivity and professionalism, working closely with families to ensure the child's best interests remain our top priority.

By working together and adopting positive, non-physical discipline methods, we can foster a community where children are empowered, respected, and supported both at home and in school. Let's continue to create a safe, nurturing environment for all children, helping them develop into resilient and compassionate individuals who feel secure and valued.

TIPS

*for supporting positive
behaviour at home*

Stay Calm and Listen

When conflict arises, take a moment to compose yourself before addressing the issue. Listen actively to your child's feelings and perspective without interrupting, which helps them feel heard and understood. This calm approach diffuses tension and models respectful communication.

Encourage "Cool-Down" Time

Encourage both yourself and your child to take a break when emotions run high. A "cool-down" period gives everyone time to process feelings before discussing the issue constructively. You can then come back together to address the problem with clearer minds.

Use "I" Statements

Model how to express emotions without blaming. For example, say, "I feel upset when toys aren't put away," rather than "You never clean up." This approach teaches children how to communicate their feelings respectfully and understand how their actions affect others.

Solve Problems Together

Involve your child in finding solutions to the problem. Ask questions like, "What can we do next time to avoid this issue?" or "How do you think we can fix this together?" Collaborative problem-solving helps children develop accountability and strengthens your bond by working as a team.

Focus on Positive Behaviour

Rather than focusing on negative behaviour, catch your child doing something good and acknowledge it. Simple praise for positive actions can reduce conflict by encouraging children to repeat constructive behaviour. This reinforcement makes good behaviour feel rewarding and sets a positive tone at home.

*Coming
Soon*



>>> RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Child Mind Institute

The Child Mind Institute offers resources on discipline, behaviour management, and positive reinforcement, supporting parents through various childhood stages.

Ministry of Community Development

The UAE's Ministry of Community Development offers parenting workshops, seminars, and resources that focus on positive parenting, child development, and family well-being.

ECA Parenting Portal

Abu Dhabi's Early Childhood Authority (ECA) runs an online portal with resources specifically tailored for UAE parents, including tips on positive discipline, child safety, and early development.

Looking ahead, on 7th November, GFS will observe UNESCO's International Day Against Violence and Bullying, reinforcing our commitment to a safe, respectful environment. Students will engage in age-appropriate activities focusing on empathy and the impact of words and actions.

Then, on 12th November, we'll mark Anti-Bullying Week with a variety of class-based activities. Children are invited to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes everyone unique and to promote inclusivity and kindness, look out for more detailed information in your year group newsletters.

Finally, on 20th November, we'll celebrate World Children's Day with the relaunch of our ICareListen strategy, dedicated to listening to and supporting every child in our community. This global event highlights children's rights, safety, and the value of every child's voice.

Each of these days provides meaningful opportunities for students to build empathy, inclusion, and open communication. We look forward to marking them together, strengthening our commitment to a safe and inclusive school environment.