جيمس مدرسة فاوندرز دبي

GEMS Founders School DUBAI

September 2026

>>> SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

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Dear GFS Families,

Welcome to the first Safeguarding Spotlight of the new academic year.
It has been wonderful to see our students settling so positively into the new academic year, reconnecting with friends and teachers, and becoming familiar with their new routines.
As the term progresses, our role as a school is not only to respond to concerns but also to identify patterns, raise awareness and work proactively with families to keep children safe.
In each edition, we will share key themes emerging within our school and the wider community, practical guidance for parents, and information that can help you support your child's wellbeing, safety and personal development.
Together, we can ensure every child feels safe, supported and ready to thrive.

Spotlight on
DIGITAL SAFEGUARDING

Mr Chris
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The start of a new school year brings fresh uniforms, excited smiles and plenty of photo opportunities. As we capture these special moments, it is a good time to think about how we take photographs and what we share on social media.

Before Sharing...

CHECK THE BACKGROUND
Check the whole picture. Look for other people or personal details in the background and crop them out or cover them before posting.

ASK BEFORE YOU SHARE
Ask your child. Invite them in deciding which photographs to share and respect their wishes. Be mindful that permission to take a photo does not automatically give you permission to post it online.

CHOOSE YOUR AUDIENCE CAREFULLY
Consider sharing directly with trusted family and friends. Private accounts reduce exposure, but images can still be copied or forwarded.

PROTECT OTHER PEOPLE'S PRIVACY.
Avoid including other members of the GFS community in your photographs unless you have their consent or that of their parent or guardian.

Photography and social media in the UAE

Privacy is taken seriously in the UAE, including when photographs are taken or shared online. *Article 44 of the UAE Cybercrime Law* addresses the use of technology in ways that may invade another person's privacy. As a practical rule, always seek permission before photographing or posting images of others, and be particularly mindful of children's privacy.

This school year, let's make asking permission, checking the details and thinking before we post part of our family routines.

Spotlight on
MENTAL HEALTH

The start of a new school year brings new opportunities, friendships and routines. For some children, these changes can also bring worries or anxiety. While this is a normal part of growing up, knowing when a child may need extra support is an important part of safeguarding their wellbeing.

Signs a Child May Need Support

- Reluctance to attend school
- Changes in sleep or appetite
- Increased worry or emotional outbursts
- Withdrawal from friends or activities
- Physical complaints such as headaches or stomach aches

How Parents Can Help

- Keep routines predictable
- Encourage open conversations about worries
- Avoid dismissing fears, even when they seem small
- Celebrate effort, courage and progress
- Work closely with school if concerns persist

When to Seek Additional Support

If changes in your child's behaviour affect daily life, attendance, relationships or school engagement, please reach out.

Support Available at GFS

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and would like to get in contact to discuss these further, reach out to us on Email:

counsellor_gfs@gemsedu.com

WeAllBeam Therapeutic Support

- Fully funded by GFS
- Available to pupils and families
- Completely confidential

Contact WeAllBeam directly:

rachel@weallbeam.co.uk

+44 7936 038939

At GFS, safeguarding includes protecting children's mental health as well as their physical safety. If you are concerned about your child, please reach out. Early support can make a significant difference.

SAFETY ALERT: POWER BANKS

We're sharing an important safety message about power banks (portable chargers), which are commonly used to charge electronic devices. While they are generally safe when used correctly, like all devices containing lithium batteries, they can pose a fire risk if they are damaged, faulty, overheated or used properly.

At GFS, power banks are not permitted on site and should not be brought onto school campus.

Why are they a safety concern?

If the battery inside a power bank is damaged, faulty, or improperly used (e.g., overcharged), it can overheat and very quickly cause an intense fire and even lead to an explosion.

Power banks are a potential hazard in schools, being carried in bags, charged in shared spaces, and often left connected for long periods near paper, books and other combustible materials, all of which increase the risk of an incident going unnoticed until it's serious.

Spotlight on
STAYING SAFE

SMOKING ON SCHOOL SITE

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe, healthy and welcoming environment, we kindly remind all parents and visitors that smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the school site, including inside vehicles while on campus.

Many children walk through our drop-off and pick-up areas each day. Smoking in or around vehicles exposes children and families to second-hand smoke and does not reflect the healthy behaviours we promote in school.

Under UAE law, smoking is prohibited in educational institutions and in private vehicles when a child under the age of 12 is present.

We kindly ask all members of our community to help us keep our school environment smoke-free, safe and welcoming for everyone.

Staying Safe
HEALTH & SAFETY

Ms Monia
Manager School Operations

At GFS, Health, Safety and Environment is everyone's responsibility. We are committed to providing a safe, secure, and healthy learning environment for all students, staff, parents, and visitors. To support our community, we regularly share guidance, reminders, and awareness information to help everyone understand their role in maintaining high standards of health and safety. We kindly encourage all members of our school community to follow this guidance and work together to promote a culture of safety and wellbeing for all.

Drop and Go Procedure

It is essential that all parents follow the instructions below to ensure the success of the Drop and Go procedure. This process can only operate safely and efficiently when everyone works together, follows staff guidance, and shows respect to fellow parents, volunteers, and staff members who are there to assist.

- **No Parking:** Please remain in your vehicle at all times and do not park or leave your vehicle in the Drop and Go zone. This will reduce waiting times and help traffic flow safely and efficiently.
- **Get Ready Before Arrival:** To ensure a smooth and quick drop-off, please have your child ready to exit the vehicle as soon as you reach the designated drop-off area. This includes having their backpack, lunch box, water bottle, and any other required school items prepared. A quick goodbye is all that is needed.
- **Exit Safely:** Students must exit from the curb-side door only and not into active traffic lanes. This is for their safety and the safety of others.
- **Follow Staff Directions:** Please follow all instructions provided by staff members and parent volunteers. Their role is to ensure the safety of students and maintain an efficient drop-off process.
- **No Stopping or Waiting:** Once your child has exited the vehicle, please move forward immediately. Vehicles parked or left unattended in the Drop and Go zone may be reported to the relevant authorities in accordance with their guidance.

Volunteer Assistance

Our dedicated team of parent volunteers and school staff will be available each morning to assist students in exiting vehicles safely and ensuring they enter the school building securely.
Should you wish to volunteer and support this initiative, please email **mso_gfs@gemsedu.com.**

We appreciate your cooperation in making the Drop and Go process safe, efficient, and respectful for all members of our school community.

Do Not Leave Children Unattended in Vehicles

We would like to remind all parents and guardians of the serious dangers of leaving children unattended inside vehicles, even for a short period of time.
We understand that some may believe it is safe to leave children in an air-conditioned vehicle while running a quick errand or attending to a school-related matter. However, this practice can be extremely dangerous. Air-conditioning systems can fail unexpectedly, vehicles can overheat very quickly, and children are particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.
Leaving a child unattended in a vehicle may result in:

- Heat exhaustion or heat stroke
- Difficulty breathing
- Dehydration
- Panic or distress
- Serious medical emergencies

For the safety and wellbeing of all children, parents are kindly requested to:

- Always take children with you when exiting your vehicle.
- Never leave children unattended, even for "just a few minutes".
- Ensure older siblings are not left responsible for younger children inside vehicles.
- Check the vehicle carefully before locking it and walking away.

Mandatory Parent ID/Lanyard Requirement

For the safety and security of all students, staff, and visitors, we kindly remind all parents and guardians of the requirement **to wear their parent ID/lanyard at all times while on the school premises.**
Many families have already received the new **Grey Parent Lanyard,** which is the only approved and active parent lanyard for the **2026-2027 academic year**. If you have not yet received your lanyard, please inform your child's class teacher.
While many staff members may already know you, wearing your parent ID/lanyard remains an essential safeguarding and security requirement. It enables staff and security personnel to quickly identify authorised individuals and helps maintain a safe environment for everyone on campus.
Wearing your parent ID/lanyard:

- Supports the school's safeguarding procedures.
- Helps staff and security identify authorised individuals quickly and easily.
- Assists during emergencies and evacuations.
- Enhances the overall safety and security of students, staff, and visitors.

Parents are kindly requested to:

- Wear their parent ID/lanyard visibly at all times while on the school site.
- Present their ID/lanyard when requested by staff or security personnel.
- Report lost or damaged lanyards to the school immediately.
- Encourage their children to wear their student ID cards at all times to support identification and safety procedures.