جيمس مدرسة فاوندرز دبي

GEMS Founders School DUBAI

October 2026

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Ms Hanaa
Senior Assistant Principal &
Designated Safeguarding Lead
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Dear GFS Families,

As our students settle into the academic year, their experiences are also expanding beyond the classroom through school trips, after-school activities and enrichment opportunities.

We want to reassure you that keeping your children safe remains our priority wherever their learning takes them. All staff have completed their annual safeguarding training, both face-to-face and online, so that our children are well protected and supported at all times.

Safeguarding works best when school and home work together, so we would also like to offer Safeguarding Training for Parents, sharing how we keep children safe and how you can support this at home.

Interested in attending? Please register your interest here: **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR PARENTS INTEREST – FILL OUT FORM**

Spotlight on DIGITAL SAFEGUARDING

Mr Chris
AHT, Digital Safeguarding Lead
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Growing Up Online: New UAE social media rules and healthier screen habits

KNOW THE RULES

The UAE has introduced new rules to help protect children on social media.

🔴 **UNDER 15**
Personal social media accounts are not permitted. Restrictions also cover features such as posting, commenting, sharing and joining public groups or open interactive spaces.

🟠 **AGE 15 TO UNDER 16**
Accounts are permitted with additional protections, including age-appropriate content controls, restrictions on contact with unknown users, screen-time limits and parental controls.

The framework applies to social media platforms operating in or providing services to users in the UAE, including X, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok. Platforms have up to 12 months to comply, so changes will appear gradually. Parental consent does not override these restrictions.

CHECK TOGETHER

Take 10 minutes for a family digital check-in.

- □ Explore the apps and games your child uses, including chat features.
- □ Make sure account ages are accurate and meet the relevant age restrictions.
- □ Review who can see their posts, send messages and make friend requests.
- □ Remind your child: "If something online worries you, you can always tell me."

This week's family challenge
Choose one shared habit, such as device-free meals or a regular screen-off time before bed.

BUILD HEALTHY SCREEN HABITS

Active screen time means creating, learning, solving problems or connecting positively with people they know, such as coding a game, researching a topic or video-calling grandparents.

Passive screen time looks more like long stretches of scrolling, short-form videos or algorithm-driven content with little real interaction.

Wadeema's Law
(Federal Law No. 3 of 2016)

What every family should know about child protection in the UAE

Spotlight on CHILDREN RIGHTS

Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 on Child Rights (Wadeema's Law) protects every child under the age of 18 in the UAE. The law places the child's safety, wellbeing and best interests at the centre of decisions affecting them.

CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE

Children must be protected from:

- Physical abuse, violence and cruelty
- Neglect or being left without appropriate supervision
- Emotional and psychological harm
- Exposure to drugs and other harmful substances
- Exploitation and trafficking
- Being denied education

READ MORE

WHAT DOES THE LAW EXPECT FROM ADULTS?

Protecting children is a shared responsibility. Parents, carers, schools and professionals responsible for children all have a role in keeping children safe and protecting their rights.

Parents & carers are responsible for providing appropriate care, guidance and supervision, and protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Schools are responsible for providing a safe learning environment, safeguarding children's wellbeing and taking appropriate action when there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare.

Spotlight on MENTAL HEALTH

Concerned?
Start the conversation early. Listen without judgement and avoid commenting on weight or appearance.

WHEN EATING BECOMES A CONCERN

Changes around food can sometimes be a sign that a child is struggling.

Look out for:

- Skipping meals or suddenly restricting foods
- Becoming very focused on weight, calories or body shape
- Avoiding eating with family or friends
- Exercising excessively or feeling unable to miss exercise
- Noticeable changes in weight, energy or concentration
- Vomiting or other behaviours intended to compensate for eating

Eating concerns are not always visible through weight or appearance. If you notice a significant change in your child's relationship with food, talk to your child and seek support early.

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

Spotlight on
STAYING SAFE

Ms Monia
Manager School Operations

PARENT LANYARDS

GREY = APPROVED

Please wear your grey parent lanyard **at all times** when accessing the school premises.

Yellow lanyards will no longer be accepted from November.

Need a new or replacement lanyard?
Submit your request via STS.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
BUCKLE UP, EVERY JOURNEY

The safety of our students remains our highest priority. Please remind your child:

- **Seatbelts** on whenever travelling on the school bus.
- **Stay seated and buckled** throughout the journey.
- **Follow the instructions of the** Bus Guardian and Driver.

The same safe habit matters in every vehicle, not just the school bus.

SCHOOL GATE GUIDE

Please follow the gate access arrangements below during drop off and collection times.

FRONT OF SCHOOL

GATE	ACCESS
Gate 0	Pedestrian entry and exit only.
Gate 1	Vehicle entry and exit only.
Gates 2 & 3	Pedestrian entry and exit only.
Gates 4 & 5	Vehicle entry and exit only.

REAR OF SCHOOL

GATE	ACCESS
Gate 6	Pedestrian entry and exit for students only.
Gate 7	Bus entry and exit only. No pedestrian access.
Gate 8	Pedestrian gate opened only in specific circumstances, as directed by the school.
Gate 9	Pedestrian access only.

PLEASE REMMBER:

- **Gate 6 is for students only.**
- **Gate 7 has no pedestrian access.**

Parents may use Gate 9 for access to the bookstore during the approved opening times, following the access arrangements and instructions provided by the school staff and Security Team.