



DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Who is a child?

According to Philippine Republic Act 7610 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STRONGER DETERRENCE AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, a child refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or one who is over 18, but is unable to fully take care of his or her self nor protect self from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.

We believe that every child is:

1. created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and a gift from God (Psalm 127:3-5);
2. a potential carrier of God's truth for every generation (Psalm 78:5-7);
3. an essential and valuable part of God's mission and Kingdom today and in generations to come (Psalm 8:2, Psalm 78:5-7, Matthew 18:1-3);
4. one who should be encouraged to fulfill their God-given potential;
5. one for whom each community member should take responsibility and precautions to help create a safe and caring environment.

What is child abuse?

CHILD ABUSE - refers to the maltreatment of a child, whether habitual or a single incident, which includes any of the following: (RA 7610)

IGSL uses the following definitions:

NEGLECT - the persistent or significant failure to look after a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger (including cold, extreme heat, or starvation) or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Failure, refusal or inability on the part of a child's caretaker to provide adequate physical and emotional care, medical or mental health treatment, appropriate supervision and a safe environment.
- Failure to provide proper adult guardianship such as leaving children unsupervised at home for any extended period of time. It is suggested that children under 10 years old should not be left alone. If left alone, the child should be endorsed to a trusted adult to whom the child can go to if needed. See suggested article.*
- Allowing a child to engage in an illegal or harmful activity.
- Failure to address issues of your child being bullied or being the one who bullies.

PHYSICAL ABUSE - physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented. This includes, but is not limited to:

- extreme means of disciplining a child causing skin bruising, burns, injury, deformity, emotional or mental anxiety and distress, or loss or impairment of any bodily function or death;



- Such acts may include, but are not limited to: slapping, punching, beating, choking, kicking, biting, shaking, turning, holding underwater, pulling hair, or holding against one's will; or
- Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any of the above.

SEXUAL ABUSE – the sexual use, sexual manipulation, or sexual exploitation (through force or persuasion), of a child or young person for an adult's or another child's (under 18) own sexual gratification. This includes the involvement of any children (under 18) in sexual activities of any kind (including exposure to pornography). Sexual touching between children can also be sexual abuse when there is a significant age difference (often defined as 3 or more years) between the children or if the children are very different developmentally or size-wise.

Sexual Abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- Visual: This includes any form of indecent exposure, showing or taking of suggestive pictures, pornographic material, or the showing of unclothed persons, any sexual activity or simulated sexual activity such as masturbation or intercourse or peeping;
- Verbal: Remarks or expressions which include sexual threats, solicitation, sexually explicit language (whether in person, on the telephone, or via text messaging or the Internet), or any verbal expression with the intent to arouse or stimulate sexual urges upon the child.
- Physical contact (or penetration by penis, fingers, or any other body part or object) with a person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or in the case of a female, breast, or causing a child to perform any of these acts. This includes masturbation in front of or to the victim, rubbing, holding, or kissing for the purpose of sexual gratification.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE – A persistent or significant emotional ill treatment or rejection of a child, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioral development of a child. It is the use of sustained and repetitive threats, intimidation, acts of injustice or indignity by verbal and/or physical means (contact or non-contact) against a child. Emotional abuse can also include the above through text messaging, email, and online cyber-bullying through social media and the internet.

BULLYING -an unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that causes embarrassment, pain or discomfort to someone. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. It can be planned and organized, or it may be unintentional. It may be perpetrated by individuals or by groups of children.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abusive behavior and will not be tolerated in our community. Anyone who sees a child bullying another needs to take immediate steps to stop it from happening, to protect and reassure the child/ren being targeted. Parents are responsible for the attention and appropriate help for their child in these situations, whether their child is the victim or the offender.



What are the possible signs of child abuse?

NEGLECT

1. When a child is chronically unwashed or hungry in ways that jeopardize the child's health
2. Child is left unsupervised by parents or designated adult guardian for any given time that leaves the child vulnerable to harm
3. Parents do not show care for the child's academic growth and performance
4. Child does not want to go home
5. Parents cannot be reached upon emergency
6. Parents fail to provide medical or psychological care
7. Permitting the child to use alcohol or other drugs
8. Letting the child experience verbal humiliation from themselves or from others
9. Refusing to acknowledge the child's presence

PHYSICAL INJURY TO A CHILD

1. Unexplained bruises and welts on any part of the body
2. Bruises of different ages (various colors)
3. Injuries reflecting shape of the article used (electric cord, belt, buckle, paddles, hand, etc.)
4. Injuries that regularly appear after child's absence or vacation
5. Unexplained burns, especially to soles, palms, back, or buttocks
6. Rope burns on arms, legs, neck, or torso
7. Injuries inconsistent with information offered by the child
8. Unexplained laceration, abrasions, or fractures

SEXUAL ABUSE

1. Sexual knowledge, behavior, or use of language not appropriate to age level
2. Venereal disease in a child of any age
3. Persistent, inappropriate, unusual, or aggressive sexual play with other children, themselves, toys, or pets
4. Evidence of physical trauma or bleeding to the oral, genital, or anal areas
5. Difficulty in walking or sitting, refusing to change into PE clothes, fear of CRs/bathrooms
6. Child running away from home and not giving any specific complaint
7. Not wanting to be alone with an individual
8. Pregnancy, especially at a young age
9. Extremely protective parenting
10. Taking pictures of a child's private parts

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

1. Changes in behavior — such as aggression, anger, hostility or hyperactivity — or changes in school performance
2. Depression, anxiety or unusual fears, or a sudden loss of self-confidence
3. Self harm or attempts at suicide

Anyone in the school community who has a concern regarding child safety is responsible for notifying an IGSL Child Safety Representative by submitting a Child Safety Concern Form (preferably online) or in person as soon as possible and within 24 hours. A Concern is anything that a member of the IGSL community has seen, heard, or experienced that may be related to child safety (as stated in the IGSL Child Safe Campus Code of Conduct or IGSL Child Safe Campus Definitions of Abuse).



Sources:

1. Special Protection of Child Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (Philippines RA 7610) 1992 - https://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra1992/ra_7610_1992.html, Enacted June 17, 1992, Accessed 09/25/2019
2. Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (Philippines RA 9262) 2004
3. DO 40, s. 2012 - DepEd Child Protection Policy (Philippines)
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991 (International)
5. Faith Academy Philippines New Parents Reading packet - <https://faith.edu.ph/staff-info/staff-child-safety/> - Accessed 09/25/2019. Faith Academy's materials were adapted from Shanghai American School
6. Dalat International School Child Safety and Personal Protection Handbook (2019)
7. St Mary's Primary School Child Protection Policy, 27 Old Grand Jury Road, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Co.
8. StopBullying.gov <http://stopbullying.gov/>
9. Definition of Bullying- Charis Central Academy, Quezon City, Philippines (2022)

* "Leaving Your Child at Home Alone: How Parents Should Prepare"

[\https://ph.theasianparent.com/leaving-child-alone-at-home](https://ph.theasianparent.com/leaving-child-alone-at-home)