

Health and Safety Policy

Updated Aug 2021

Vision

Inspiring kind and joyful learning communities who use innovative thinking to build a mindful and sustainable world.

Mission

Verita ensures that kindness is the centre of everything we do. Deeply committed to international and intercultural understanding, Verita provides an academically engaging, inquiry-based educational approach.

Our responsibility is to whole-heartedly assist our students to develop the social-emotional and academic skills necessary to live meaningful, fulfilled and happy lives.

Preamble

Verita International School is an institution which aligns with the CIS Code of Ethics and the UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The CIS Code of Ethics highlights that we, as a school, are expected to:

- Fulfil the promises stated in their guiding statements, policies, contracts and promotional materials.
- Strive for excellence.
- Nurture a culture of care in which the education, safety and well-being of students and others are paramount.
- Comply with applicable laws and regulations.
- Respect the dignity and equality of all individuals, groups and cultures.
- Promote global citizenship.

As a school which aligns with the UNCRC, we make an effort on upholding the 45 articles of the convention in our school; please refer to the UNCRC articles [here](#).

This policy shall be reviewed at two years, at the end of the school year, in July, unless an interim review is deemed necessary based on the experiences of the school community.

Distribution: publicly, on the school website, to all staff, in the Admissions package. All categories of staff will be made familiar with this document and its implementation upon employment and/or during induction.



Introduction

Verita School is committed to putting the welfare and safety of every student and employee as its highest priority to enable each student to be able to take full advantage of the School's main aim. Therefore, it is our duty and responsibility to maintain the highest standards of safety, security, health and hygiene in order to ensure a safe and healthy learning, teaching and working environment for students, staff and other employees.

Aims

The main purpose of this policy is to ensure that the basic demands with regards to health and safety are met.

Other aims are to:

1. Provide guidance to all categories of staff, parents and the school community at large
2. Inform all persons concerned with the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors (recognising that visitors may not be familiar with the School's practices and environment)
3. Provide students and employees with the information, instructions, training and supervision that they need to work safely, to develop safety awareness generally and encourage individual responsibility for health and safety
4. Ensure that high standards are both reached and maintained through constant monitoring and training

Our policy is:

1. To maintain a secure site, to protect students, employees and the public
2. To ensure all adults at school and during school-based activities who come into contact with pupils have been checked for their suitability to work with children.
3. To ensure the building and equipment are safe, in good repair and regularly maintained.
4. To ensure all areas of specific potential hazard/risk (i.e. the cafeteria area, the Computer Labs etc.) have rules and procedures for operation that are clearly understood by all persons involved within these areas.
5. To ensure all emergency procedures (e.g. Fire Drill Procedures, Emergency Procedures) are clear and regularly rehearsed and to plan for fire safety audits of the entire school.
6. To ensure all hazardous substances and equipment are properly isolated and clearly labelled or under lock away from the reach of children.
7. To ensure all contracted food handlers have satisfied the statutory requirements regarding health.
8. To effectively control the activity of contractors on the School premises.
9. To ensure that the School Nurse or qualified first aiders are present on site throughout the day.
10. To ensure all incidents and accidents are reported in the School Incidents Register held by the School Nurse.
11. To ensure that in the supervision of children (whether in school or on an out of school activity), the agreed pupil teacher ratio is adhered to and the necessary notification and consent forms have been completed and assessed.



12. To ensure that we have adequate supervision of children during break, games and activity time by members of the academic staff and that all staff are mindful of the safety and security of the children in their care
13. That standards of hygiene in all areas of the school are maintained at the highest possible level.

Responsibilities of Employees

All employees have general health and safety responsibilities. Staff must be aware that they are obliged to take care of their own health and safety whilst at work along with others who may be affected by their actions. All employees have responsibility to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others in undertaking their work and comply with the School's health and safety policy and procedures at all times.
- Report all accidents, incidents, all defects in condition of premises or equipment and any health and safety concerns immediately to their line manager in line with the reporting procedure.
- Not to intentionally interfere with or misuse any equipment or fittings provided in the interests of health safety and welfare.
- Ensure that they only use equipment or machinery that they have been trained to use and to ensure that all work procedures are safe and without risks to health.
- Make use of all necessary control measures and personal protective equipment provided for safety or health reasons.
- To carry out general risk assessments and specific risk assessments as required by Health and Safety legislation.
- Offer advice and suggestions to improve health and safety.

Responsibility of Pupils

The School's mission and vision of kindness, respect for others and for school property is key to this area of the Health and Safety Policy. Students are expected to:

- Make sure that all their work is carried out in a safe manner
- Protect themselves and others by wearing any issued safety equipment provided and obey all instructions given in respect of health and safety
- Notify their teacher or any staff member if they identify any potential hazard or risk, including any fires, accidents and any potential dangerous incidents.
- Familiarise themselves with escape routes, earthquake and fire procedures.

It is considered unacceptable by Verita School, if the parents do not bring their children into the school. Verita School will not be responsible if parents leave their children on the kerbside.

Supervision of Pupils

Every member of staff is responsible for the health and safety of each student and for the cleanliness and smooth running of the School.

Teachers are on duty at various areas in the school during student arrival, break, lunch, and during all school activities.



Staff should ensure students eat at the designated eating areas.

Use of Equipment and Facilities

The School ensures that the following areas meet the needs of those students and staff working at the School:

- **Ventilation-** workplaces are sufficiently well ventilated with air which is, as far as possible, free of impurity.
- **Lighting-** sufficient to enable people to work without risks.
- **Cleanliness-** floors and classrooms are cleaned daily and offices upon demand.
- Conditions of floors and traffic routes– these to be kept in a safe condition and have non-slip qualities. There is a requirement to keep floors and traffic routes free of obstructions which may present a hazard or impede access.

Service Providers

The suitability of suppliers and service providers is the responsibility of the Director, or of the person delegated by the Director to deal with specific services or subcontractors. This is checked periodically or upon renewal of contract. The health of all the catering staff is the responsibility of the Director or its appointee. Food handlers are tested periodically and trained in hygiene standards as required. Premises, where food is prepared, are regularly checked for safety and issues of hygiene.

Medical records of all service providers' staff shall be requested by the School prior to commencing operations at children's proximity. All communicable and contagious diseases need to be communicated to the School; the failure to do so may lead to the unilateral cessation of contractual relations.

It is the School's responsibility to request that every subcontractor has up to date authorizations and certifications to provide the corresponding services; that staff is lawfully employed; that Romanian legal norms are respected.

The School shall, to the extent possible in Romania, request its suppliers to respect norms and procedures as expected from Independent Schools in the UK. The norms, standards and procedures shall be made available by the School to all subcontractors prior to the signing of a contract.

Security

The aim of the on-site security is to try and ensure a reasonably high level of security, primarily with regard to the safety of both students and staff and their property as well as to minimise risks of fire, intrusion and theft.

Visitors

It is the School's policy not to allow any unauthorized contact or intrusion on School grounds. Any visitor shall be stopped and asked to present some form of ID. Visitors may not go further on School property without being accompanied by School staff or without having received permission from Administrative staff to come into the building of the school.



The School shall make use of any means necessary to prevent a breach of the security perimeter and the provisions of this policy in relation to third parties. Parents are considered a part of the school community and shall be allowed on School grounds after having identified themselves.

Drivers and any other family member other than the parents and/or tutors themselves picking up children on behalf of the family will not be allowed to pick up children without the express and prior written consent of parents or legal guardians.

Access

Primary pupils leaving school independently of buses or outside regular school departure times are required to register their early leave with the School Office and be accompanied by an adult. Parents or Guardians wishing that their children be allowed to leave by themselves are required to put that in writing and submit the letter to the School Office.

Staff will stop anyone they do not recognise who is not wearing a "Visitor" badge. Pets are not allowed on the premises during the school day.

Cars or other vehicles are not allowed in the School's yard except for emergency situations vehicles (fire truck, ambulance).

The school has a Health and Safety Liaison committee made up of staff, interested parents and an Advisory Board member to ensure health and safety is of paramount importance. Minutes of these meetings are kept and progress is monitored at least 3 times per year.

*Created and Reviewed by: Damian Ward/Verita Founder and Advisory Board
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