

CHILD PROTECTION

POLICY, PRACTICES & PROCEDURES

1- POLICY

EEFA, by its nature, is an organisation which bring adults and children in contact on a daily basis. By legal obligation and as a direct consequence of EEFA's fundamental commitment to respect and protect each individual, EEFA opposes and strives to prevent all forms of child abuse, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional ill-treatment, intentional neglect, discrimination, exploitation and manipulation of children as set out in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**.

Child abuse may be a deliberate act or it may be failing to act to prevent harm. Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do, intentionally or unintentionally, which harms a child or damages their well-being, dignity and prospect of safe and healthy development into adulthood.

EEFA acknowledges it has a responsibility for the safety of children participating in any of its activities or otherwise under its temporary care. It also recognises that appropriate and clear child protection policy, practices and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved with EEFA, to the children obviously, but also to the employees and volunteers, as they can help protect them from erroneous or malicious allegations.

EEFA has developed its own Child Protection Policy, Practices and Procedures, based on the UNCRC, as well as on child protection policies, practices and procedures of similar organizations.

Any member of EEFA is required to:

- recognise, understand and accept their responsibilities,
- develop awareness of the issues which can cause children harm, and
- report concerns according procedures defined by EEFA.

EEFA is committed to reviewing its Child Protection Policy, Practices and Procedures at regular intervals, and to making these documents public and available for download on its website.

2- PRACTICES

Physical Protection of the Children

- Each EEFA member commits to recognize risks for the physical safety of the children participating to EEFA activities or otherwise under its temporary care. The risks may be linked to material or functional aspects on EEFA sites, or outside of EEFA sites where EEFA members are interacting with children.
- Immediately after identification of the risk, each EEFA member commits to take measures to prevent a possible accident or any potential physical damage to the children. These measures may be temporary in order to prevent immediate danger, until final measures are put in place.
- When the identified risk could have led to serious consequences for the physical safety of the children, the EEFA member informs the Coordination Team about the identified risk and about the measures undertaken to prevent physical damage. Then, the Coordination Team makes sure that appropriate final measures are put in place to definitively reduce the risk at a minimum.
- While children are involved in EEFA activities or are under its temporary care, the present EEFA members must take with them a first-aid kit or be aware of the location of a nearby first-aid kit. The first-aid kit contains at least: a disinfectant, a mean to apply the disinfectant and to clean the wound, sterile compresses, bandage, plasters.
- While children are involved in EEFA activities or are under its temporary care, the present EEFA members must ensure that transportation to the nearest hospital can be organized quickly in case of an emergency. Activities with children outside a village are prohibited.

Psychological Protection of the Children

- EEFA teachers strive to create a pleasant, motivating and productive atmosphere during teaching and avoid any stressful situation for their students.
- Physical contact between EEFA students and EEFA teachers is strictly limited, **in both directions**, to following body parts: **hands, arms, shoulders**.
- In particular, EEFA teachers cannot touch the head of EEFA students. Touching the head could insult and/or humiliate the student, hurt its religious beliefs or be interpreted as an intimate contact. Even during sports, games or outdoor activities, these rules have to be followed. For instance, EEFA teachers cannot carry EEFA students on their shoulders.

- **An EEFA teacher cannot be in a room or a vehicle or in any other closed space alone with an EEFA student.**

Any exception to this rule requires the explicit agreement of at least 2 coordinators. The General Coordinator must be informed immediately about the situation which requires an EEFA teacher to be alone in a closed space with an EEFA student. If the General Coordinator cannot be informed immediately, at least one member of the EEFA Board must be informed immediately.

- **Any violation of these rules must be reported according to the procedures described in Chapter 3.**
- EEFA teachers must introduce themselves to the class (name, age, country) and allow their students to ask them questions. The teachers are not committed to answer truthfully but must support the efforts of their students to feel safe, i.e. reasonably familiar with their teachers.
- EEFA teachers are not allowed to shout at or punish their students. If disciplinary measures are necessary, the teacher informs the Education Coordinator and/or the General Coordinator about the situation.
- During classes, the teachers make sure that the names of the students are visible to them, so that the teachers can call their students by names.

Protection of the Development of the Children

- Political, ideological and philosophical discussions between EEFA teachers and EEFA students are strictly prohibited at all times, i.e. during the lessons as well as outside the teaching hours.
- Religious and cultural discussions between EEFA teachers and EEFA students are allowed only from the point of view of an intercultural exchange. During these exchanges, the EEFA teachers ensure that the religious beliefs and the culture of the students are **respected** and **preserved**. Comparative discussions on religious beliefs and cultural practices **must strictly avoid any form of ranking. Proselytism (efforts to change someone's beliefs) is absolutely prohibited**. EEFA teachers must be aware of the unintentional cultural influence they may have on their students and must reduce it to a minimum. EEFA teachers demonstrate genuine interest and respect for the local culture and religious beliefs.
- EEFA teachers commit to detect mistakes in the attribution of the class levels: if a student demonstrates a level of English which does not correspond to its class, the teacher informs the Education Coordinator who will test the level of English of the student and reassign them.
- As far as possible, EEFA teachers detect special talents and skills of their students and strive to encourage and develop these in the frame of their educational activities.

3- PROCEDURES

- Any **obvious** or **proven** violation of these rules and commitments must be reported **immediately** to both the Education Coordinator and the General Coordinator.
- Likewise, any **suspected** violation of these rules and commitments must be reported **immediately** to both the Education Coordinator and the General Coordinator.
- If **any** coordinator is involved or suspected to be involved in the violation of the rules and commitments, at least one member of the EEFA Board must be informed.

4- CONTACTS

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