Ankara Özel Bilkent Laboratuvar Okulları

BLIS | Bilkent Laboratory School

Child Safeguarding at BLIS

A Guide for Parents

At Bilkent Laboratory School (BLIS), the safety, well-being, and dignity of every child are our highest priorities. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility that involves the school, families, and the wider community. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive environment where all students can learn and thrive.

Our Commitment

BLIS is committed to protecting all students in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We work proactively to ensure that children are safe from harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation while in our care – both on campus and during all school-related activities.

Our Principles

1. **The fundamental consideration**
   The safety and well-being of all students is absolutely fundamental to all school endeavors; child safety must be a condition of all school decisions and actions.

2. **Duty of care *in loco parentis***
   On school premises and during school excursions, child safety is the school's legal responsibility.

3. **Uninterrupted and ubiquitous care**
   Supervision of and responsibility for child safety is required at all times, and in all parts of the school, with no interruptions or blind spots.

4. **Shared Responsibility**
   Child safeguarding is a collective responsibility. All members of the BLIS community are expected to actively contribute to a safe environment. Every member of the BLIS community has a duty to prioritize students' physical safety, emotional well-being, dignity, and rights.

5. **Child-centred Approaches**
   Safeguarding measures and responses will be child-centered in intent. They will be evaluated according to how effectively they protect and support the best interests of the student.

6. **Zero Tolerance for Harm**
   BLIS maintains a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or behavior that may place a child at risk. All concerns will be taken seriously, reported promptly, and addressed in accordance with established procedures and legal obligations.

7. **Pro-active Stance**
   BLIS is committed to fostering a proactive safeguarding culture grounded in prevention, vigilance and early identification. All staff members are expected to remain vigilant to signs of vulnerability, abuse, neglect, or emotional distress, and to act promptly when concerns arise. Preventative education, regular training, risk assessment, and open channels of communication are essential components of our safeguarding framework. By embedding safeguarding into daily practice, policies, curriculum, and school culture, BLIS seeks not only to respond to harm but to prevent it.

What Is Child Safeguarding?

Child safeguarding refers to the actions we take to promote students' welfare and protect them from harm. It includes:

- Preventing harm through safe practices and education
- Empowering children by teaching them about their rights and personal safety
- Responding promptly, sensitively, and professionally to concerns

Types of Concerns We Take Seriously

Safeguarding concerns may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical or emotional harm
- Sexual abuse or inappropriate behaviour
- Neglect or lack of appropriate care
- Bullying, including cyberbullying

All concerns are handled with care, confidentiality, and sensitivity, in accordance with national regulations and international best practice.

How BLIS Protects Students

To ensure a strong culture of safeguarding, BLIS:

- Provides regular child safeguarding training for all staff and on-site contractors
- Follows rigorous recruitment and screening procedures
- Maintains clear supervision, visitor management, and security systems
- Conducts risk assessments for all off-campus and school-related activities
- Teaches students age-appropriate personal safety and digital citizenship skills

Student Education

Through Personal, Social and Health Education, advisory programmes, and counseling support, students learn:

- Their rights and responsibilities
- How to recognise safe and unsafe situations
- How to say “no” and seek help from trusted adults
- How to stay safe online
- How and when to report concerns

Working Together with Families

Families play a vital role in safeguarding. We encourage parents to:

- Support positive, respectful behaviour at home.
- Talk openly with children about safety and well-being.
- Attend parent information sessions when offered.
- Share concerns with the school in a timely manner.

Confidentiality and Privacy

BLIS respects student privacy at all times. Personal information, photographs, and safeguarding-related details are shared only on a need-to-know basis and, where appropriate, with informed parental consent.

Our Promise

At BLIS, safeguarding is not just a policy – it is a daily practice. We are committed to working in partnership with families to ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and valued.

Reporting a Concern

Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to contact the school, the relevant Designated Child Safeguarding Lead, the school counseling team and / or the administration if they have any concerns regarding their child’s safety, well-being, or welfare.

Any member of staff who becomes aware of, suspects, or is informed of a safeguarding concern must report it immediately to the relevant Designated Child Safeguarding Lead, school counseling team and / or the administration.

Staff members must not attempt to investigate the concern, interview the student in detail, or take independent action. All concerns are handled in accordance with legal requirements and BLIS Child Safeguarding procedures.

ES Child Safeguarding Lead: Ece Gaye Özdemir ece.ozdemir@blisankara.org
ES Principal: Zeren Katlav zeren@blisankara.org
Pre K Psychologist: Esin Meftun Ateş esin.meftun@blisankara.org
K Counselor: Zeynep İklim Gür iklim.gur@blisankara.org
Grades 1 & 2 Counselor: Gizem Gökçe Coşkun gokce.coskun@blisankara.org
Grades 3 & 4 Counselor: Ece Gaye Özdemir ece.ozdemir@blisankara.org

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MS Child Safeguarding Lead: Özlem Başaran ozlem.basaran@blisankara.org
MS Principal: Günseli Yüksel gunseli.yuksel@blisankara.org
Grade 5 Counselor: İsmail Akbal ismail.akbal@blisankara.org
Grade 6 Counselor: Büşra Kaya busra.kaya@blisankara.org
Grade 7 Counselor: Özlem Başaran ozlem.basaran@blisankara.org
Grades 8 Psychologist: Melike Aybar melike.aybar@blisankara.org

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HS Child Safeguarding Lead: Atakan Koç atakan.koc@blisankara.org
HS Principal: Ayşegül Erdem ayakar@blisankara.org
Grades 9 & 10 Counselor: Atakan Koç atakan.koc@blisankara.org
Grades 11 & 12 Counselor: Özgü Beste Acar beste.acar@blisankara.org