

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding Education**

ASH Elementary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. We wanted to inform you about an important part of our school's commitment to student safety and well-being. Over the coming weeks, we will be providing safeguarding lessons to all elementary students as part of our curriculum.

Our goal is to empower students with the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves and others. These lessons are age-appropriate and designed to help students understand how to keep themselves safe in various situations. Topics will include:

- **Recognizing trusted adults:** Identify Safety steps - say NO, get away and tell an adult, as well as, identify trusted adults who can help in case of any concerns.
- **Identifying Safe, Unsafe, and Unwanted touch:** Understanding personal boundaries and knowing when to seek help.
- **Touching Rule:** The Touching Rule is: No one should touch your private body parts except to keep you clean and healthy. The "clean" part of this rule applies to young children at an age when an adult might help them with diaper changing, going to the toilet, or bathing. The "healthy" part of this rule refers to doctor visits; for example, when the doctor gives a child a shot.

These lessons are a core element of American School of The Hague's plan to protect the safety and wellbeing of each and every student in our community and will include the ASH Child Protection Reporting process. Our [Child Protection Policy](#) and Procedures is located on the ASH website for your reference.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the content of these lessons, please feel free to reach out or attend the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Parent Coffee Talk** with School Counselors on Wednesday, November 13th from 8:30- 9:30 (location TBA). We encourage you to continue these conversations at home, reinforcing the importance of safety in everyday life.

Child Protection/Safeguarding sessions can sometimes be emotionally difficult due to prior experiences; please contact Donna Chuula, Student Support Director at [dchuula@ash.nl](mailto:dchuula@ash.nl) if you think this will be the case for you or your child and we can discuss the best way forward.

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our students safe and informed.

Warm regards,

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