

GIFS CHILD WELFARE POLICY

Child Welfare

Child welfare is always at the centre of Gyeongnam International Foreign School's concerns.

We are here to help each individual to realize their academic and personal potential, as well as develop important human qualities and skills which will enable students to lead fulfilling lives. We actively aim to create an environment in which students feel happy, secure, fulfilled, and free to seek help when needed. Respect for others, open-mindedness, tolerance, integrity and enjoyment of life, are encouraged, whilst any form of bullying or abuse is vigilantly countered.

Students are able to seek support from a school counsellor, an advisor, or school administration as concerns and problems arise.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) provision is part of the master schedule for Grades 5-10.

In the Middle and High School students have 10 minutes of advisory each morning with a dedicated advisor who is part of the broader student welfare program.

GIFS seeks open communication with parents in regards to student welfare, via email, phone calls and Renweb as available tools of communication.

At GIFS, all students of any age, gender, ethnic group or cultural or religious background merit equal treatment and concern, with no one group favoured to the exclusion of others. We seek to offer all students equal opportunity, access to services and facilities and fairness of treatment. Teachers at GIFS aim to actively avoid discrimination and be vigilant in identifying racist or sexist behaviour.

Visitors

All visitors to GIFS are asked to sign in at reception, where they are issued a School Visitor's Pass. All contractors are to report to the office, where they must check in with the Head Custodian. GIFS teaching and administration staff are to wear their ID cards during working hours.

Bullying and Harassment

The school has a comprehensive bullying policy. In principle:

1. GIFS rejects bullying and harassment in all its forms, where bullying is defined as an action/actions to harm or intimidate someone, and harassment is defined as ongoing intimidation.
2. Allegations of bullying and harassment are treated seriously.
3. Students are encouraged to report episodes of bullying or harassment to staff or school leaders without fear of recrimination.

4. The School will offer appropriate strategies for conflict resolution and counselling where it thinks necessary, usually in consultation with the family.
5. Some forms of bullying and harassment may constitute criminal offences.
6. The School will impose appropriate disciplinary consequences where it is deemed necessary, including that of suspension or expulsion of the offending student/students.

Personal Relationships

It is natural for relationships to develop between boys and girls. However, school is a place for a wide range of friendships rather than exclusive relationships. The guidelines below can help students get the most of school life and show what is expected.

- Listen to the expression of the other person and do not put pressure on them to do anything they do not want to do, either through verbal or physical cues.
- It is inappropriate in public to engage in behaviour which might embarrass others, whether adults or students.
- Students engaging in inappropriate sexual actions on the school campus can expect an immediate suspension. Parents will be notified immediately.
- It is wrong to engage in sexual harassment or verbal bullying of any kind. Such behaviour is unacceptable and will be treated in the same way as other forms of intimidating behaviour. Sexual harassment is defined as the making of unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks.
- The same rules and guidelines apply on all School trips both during term time and during a holiday.

Student Voice

Students are able to have their voices heard through participation in the Student Council. Various events and initiatives are organized by the Student Council, and student input is sought on matters such as uniform design, service projects, and other issues that impact their educational experience at GIFS.

Problems and complaints

Student worries can involve problems with academic work or social situations, unkindness, unfairness, harassment or abuse. If a student feels that he/she cannot deal with problems or complaints alone, they should seek advice on such matters from parents/family, teachers or administration.

Making a formal complaint or seeking advice/input on matters of concern:

It is hoped that most issues can be addressed informally. However, if students wish to make a formal complaint, they can do so either verbally or in writing to any GIFS administration.

All formal complaints will follow the following steps:

1. The GIFS administration will inform the student that the complaint has been seen or heard and will acknowledge this within 2 days.
2. The administration personnel that may be privy to the complaint letter or report includes the Principal, Vice Principal, and Director.
3. The student will then be invited to talk about the matter with the Principal, Vice Principal, or Director. The student may take a friend or a teacher to support them.
4. All complaints will be addressed as quickly as possible, not to exceed ten school days.

Some situations where students might feel that they need help or advice:

- The student feels unable to cope because of problems with school work.
- The student feels unable to cope with pressure or difficulties with friendships.
- The student feels that they are being treated unfairly or unkindly by someone else, whether another student or a member of staff.
- Someone has hurt or harassed the student or made suggestions – sexual or otherwise – that the student feels are inappropriate.

Lost or Stolen Items or Money

While every effort is made by the school to provide a secure environment for students' belongings, it is each individual's responsibility to ensure that goods and valuables are safely stored. Students must bring locks to secure their belongings in their assigned lockers. Combination locks are recommended.

In the event that the item is missing, school administration will be informed and will then carry out further investigations.

Staff may inspect personal property whether or not the concerned student is present. Although it is not necessary for the student to give permission for the inspection, when possible or reasonable, efforts will be made to do so.

Theft of property and/or personal items is a very serious breach of School Rules and could result in expulsion.

Pocket Money

Only small amounts of pocket money are recommended to be carried by students.