



Common Standards for Safeguarding



www.uwc.org/safeguarding

DEFINITIONS

In this document the following words or phrases shall have the meanings indicated below:

“UWC Movement” or “Movement”	means the United World College Movement.
“Board”	means the UWC International Board.
“International Office”	means the international office of UWC International.
UWC International”	means UWC International, the company limited by guarantee, which is a registered charity in England and Wales under the name “The United World Colleges (International) Ltd”.
“Student”	means a person attending a UWC School/College for a period of study. It also includes, for the purposes of this document, all applicants for places at UWC Schools/Colleges, and participants or applicants for places at any UWC Short Course organised by any Entity.
“Abuse”	means all forms of action or inaction which can result in harm for a Student. The types of Abuse are set out in detail in the annex to this document.
“Entity”	means each UWC School/College, National Committee and other committee, association or organisation which uses the title UWC with the consent of the UWC Movement.
“Standard Policies and Procedures”	means the set of policies and procedures approved by the Board and made available to all Entities for their use, if required.
“DSL”	means a person (by whatever title) who fulfils the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead in any Entity. A DSL has oversight and responsibility for ensuring that policies and procedures are in place and operate in practice and is the first contact point in the event of a referral.

DEFINITIONS

“UWC School/College”

means any school or college which uses the letters “UWC” within its name with the authority of the UWC Movement as confirmed by UWC International.

“UWC Short Course”

means a short course organised and facilitated by an Entity.

“Common Standards”

means the UWC safeguarding common standards set out in this document.

“NC” or “National Committee”

means any committee which is established in any form in any country or territory and which has been approved and accepted by the International Board of the UWC Movement and which is entitled to nominate Students for places at UWC Schools/Colleges and to use the letters UWC in its title. Some NCs organise UWC Short Courses. NCs are Entities as defined in this document.

“Nominated Individual”

means the person appointed within any UWC Entity who is part of the governing body of that Entity and who shall have oversight into any Abuse Concerns. In the event that the Entity is not of a size or organisation to make such an appointment then UWC International may, at the request of the Entity, nominate the individual to fill that role. Such individuals may be a member of the International Office staff.

UWC seeks to support and promote the well-being of all individuals involved in the Movement. This includes taking action to reduce the risk of harm to students in its educational programmes. The UWC Common Standards for Safeguarding help ensure the alignment of approaches and implementation of policies that protect students' welfare.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- **Holistic Education:** The UWC Movement aims to provide an inclusive educational setting while minimising the risk of harm to students. Entities demonstrate alignment with UWC principles of personal trust, responsibility, and autonomy.
- **Independent yet Connected:** UWC Entities are separate legal bodies governed by local laws yet connected as members of a federation.
- **Active Engagement:** Entities are responsible for educating students on issues of safety and well-being, fostering a sense of personal empowerment.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

- **Safeguarding:** Actions taken to promote the welfare of individuals and protect them as far as possible from harm, which includes implementing training, policies and fostering a community culture of safeguarding
- **Abuse:** Actions that result in harm to students, categorized into physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as exploitation (financial and sexual) and neglect as defined under UWC standards. UWC does not tolerate any form of abuse, regardless of the perpetrator's relationship to the student.



EMBEDDING A CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING

All entities must ensure that their safeguarding policies are comprehensively understood and actively followed by all stakeholders, including governing bodies, staff, students, and volunteers. Regular training opportunities must be provided to promote awareness of safeguarding. Processes of data collection and analysis and reviews of safeguarding policies must be in place to ensure that safeguarding approaches reflect current recommended practices and address emerging risks and trends.

TAKING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

UWC mandates the following preventative actions:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Each entity must appoint and suitably train a DSL responsible for monitoring safeguarding practices and managing any related concerns.
- **Safe Recruitment Practices:** Conduct thorough background checks and obtain verified references for all staff, including volunteers with regular, unsupervised contact with students.
- **Clear Behavioural Expectations:** Establish and communicate a code of conduct that promotes working practices that minimise opportunities for abuse and ensure a safe environment for all.
- **Educational Programmes:** Implement training to educate students about the nature of abuse, self-protection, and reporting mechanisms.

The UWC Safeguarding Common Standards



The Common Standards in connection with safeguarding to be applied by all Entities (including UWC International) can be considered under the following headings:

IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO ABUSE

Staff Training: All staff must understand the nature of abuse, recognize indicators, and know response protocols.

Immediate Action: Promptly address any reported or suspected abuse based on the precautionary principle to safeguard students. This may involve temporary suspension of individuals until inquiries are complete.

Legal Compliance: All actions must adhere to local legal standards and the UWC Common Standards, ensuring that policies remain effective and lawful.

PROVIDING REPORTING MECHANISMS

Entities should provide multiple reporting pathways for stakeholders to raise safeguarding concerns. These should be clearly communicated to the relevant stakeholders with information about how reports may be responded to by the entity.

All significant incidents of abuse or harm, including self-harm, must be reported to the UWC International Office, which maintains a central record. This enables shared learning across entities and the identification of potential patterns or risks that may affect the UWC Movement.

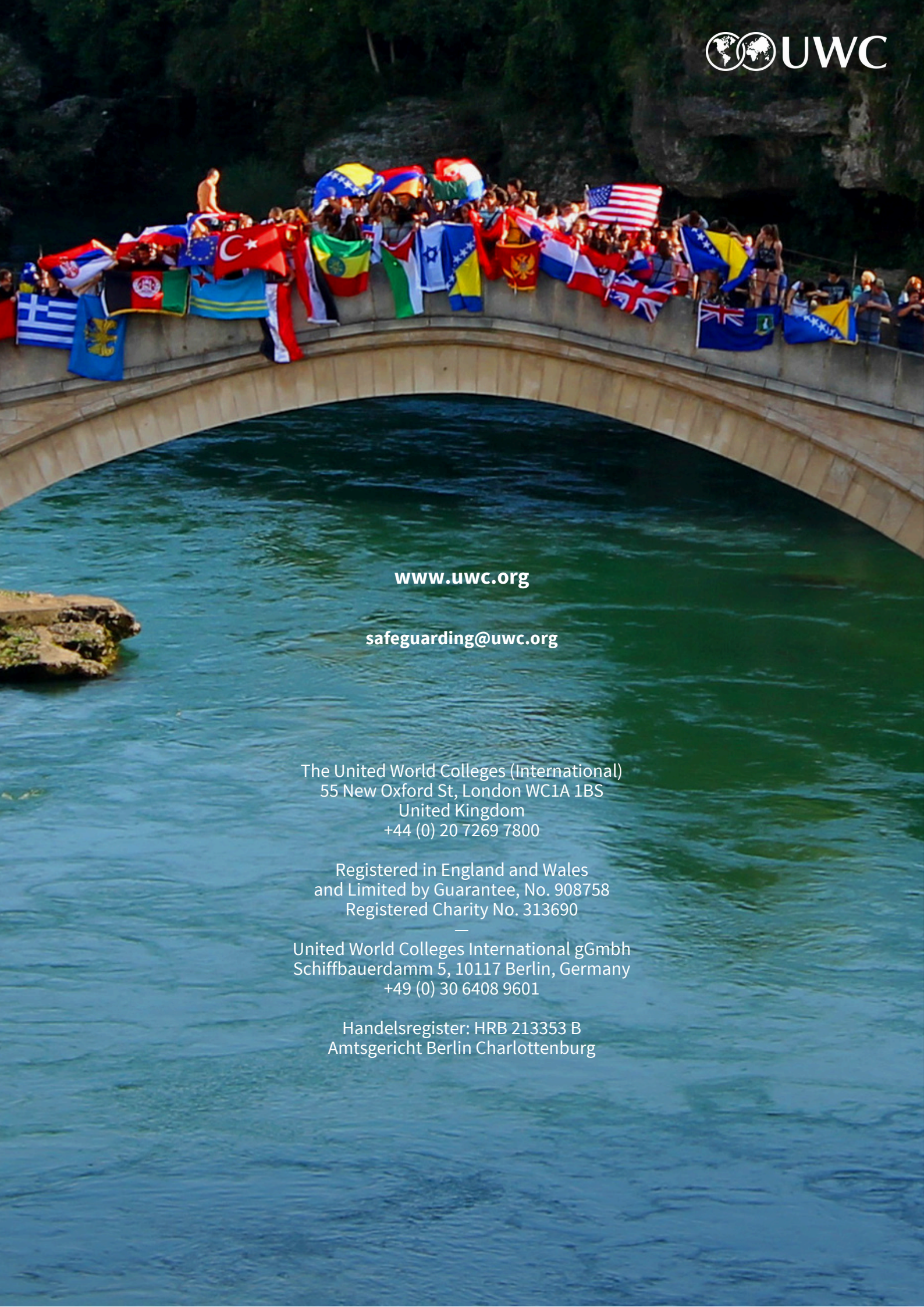


LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS

- Each entity should maintain compliance with the laws governing safeguarding and child protection in their country.
- UWC requires that the safeguarding practices of entities are not less rigorous than applicable legal requirements. If local laws are less stringent than the requirements laid out in this document, the UWC Common Standards will supersede them, unless prohibited by law.
- Regular audits and reviews of safeguarding policies should be conducted to ensure adherence and effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

The UWC Common Standards for Safeguarding aim to create a secure educational space by proactively identifying and addressing potential risks and embedding a culture of safeguarding. These standards guide all UWC entities in their obligations to promote students' safety and well-being, aligning with UWC's mission of fostering global understanding through education.



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