

## **Child/Student Protection on YST Activities**

### **Policy statement:**

#### **This policy applies to all students, teachers, volunteers and staff involved in Young Scientists Tanzania**

At YST, we believe all children and students attending secondary school and are involved in YST activities have a right to protection from abuse or exploitation. Whilst different cultures may have different levels of tolerance, YST will not tolerate any child or student abuse or exploitation as it goes against the very beliefs, values and aims of our organization. We have a responsibility to ensure that all employees, teachers, volunteers, consultants and partners are given clear guidance about the standards of behaviour and practice required of them at all times when they are in contact with children

#### **Behaviour / rules when working with children and students relating to YST Activities**

Taking into account the requirements of law as well as YST's beliefs and values, it is important to regulate YST employees' and teachers behaviour when working with children and students in order to avoid abuse or exploitation of children and students.

#### **Prohibited behaviour**

Any one working with or on behalf of YST must not at any time:

- Hit or otherwise physically assault or physically abuse children;
- Have sexual intercourse, or engage in any sexual activity, with any student , regardless of the age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of the child is not a defence;
- Act in ways that may be abusive or may place a student at risk of abuse or exploitation;
- Have child/children with whom they are working to stay overnight at their hotel/home, unsupervised, or spend excessive time alone with children;
- Condone, or participate in, behaviour of children and students that is illegal, unsafe, exploitative or abusive;
- Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children and students or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.

It is inappropriate to:

- Take children to the employees own hotel or home, especially where the child is expected to be alone with the employee.
- Develop relationships with children, which could in any way be deemed as exploitative or abusive.
- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive.
- Behave physically in a manner that is inappropriate or sexually provocative.

- Sleep in the same room or bed as a child with whom the employee is working.
- Do things of a personal nature for children, which they can do for themselves.
- Discriminate against, show different treatment to, or favour particular children to the exclusion of others.

**Good practice when working with children and students**

Expected behavior when in contact with children and students attending school and involved with Young Scientists Tanzania activities:

- Be aware of situations, which may present risks and manage these.
- Plan and organize the work and environment so as to minimize risks.
- Be visible to others when working with children and students whenever possible.
- Be open. Create and maintain a non-defensive attitude and an open culture in which to discuss any issues or concerns.
- Foster a culture of mutual accountability so that any potentially abusive or exploitative behaviour can be challenged.
- Develop a culture where the children and students can talk about their contacts with staff and others openly.
- Respect each child’s boundaries and help them to develop their own sense of their rights as well as helping them to know what they can do if they feel there is a problem

I..... have read the above notice relating to Child/Student Protection Policy on YST activities.

Please sign:.....

Date:.....

Please consult the complete YST Child Protection Policy on [www.youngscientists.co.tz](http://www.youngscientists.co.tz)