

# Tom Pouce Child Mistreatment Policy

## (Violence Reporting Policy)

### What constitutes child mistreatment?

"Any act, or failure to act, which may impact the child's health, survival, development or dignity constitutes abuse, whether carried out by an adult or a minor."

Examples of mistreatment: disrespect, mockery, criticism, acts of barbarism, humiliation, bullying, excessive punishment, too high school pressure, torture, etc.

There are four categories when talking about child mistreatment: physical violence, psychological abuse or "invisible violence", sexual abuse and neglect.

### Physical violence

This is the most visible; it leaves traces. The child is subjected to physical abuse, acts of torture and/or barbarism.

- The consequences of these malicious behaviors cause serious psychological sequelae and can have psychosomatic repercussions (mental retardation, eating disorders, etc.) and/or social (social inadequacy, Addictive behaviour, suicide attempts, etc...).

### Psychological abuse or "invisible violence"

These are acts that terrorize the child, diminish their self-esteem, undermine their development and give them the feeling of being worthless. Specifically, the child may be deprived of affection, belittled, ridiculed, ignored, manipulated, threatened, harassed (...).

- The consequences of such acts can be severe and may be extended into adulthood. Among other things, these can result in a lack of self-confidence and poor self-esteem.

### Sexual abuse

Any sexual act (touching, rape, etc) or any attempt to enter into a sexual act (threats, blackmail, advances, verbal comments) may be considered a form of abuse.

- The consequences of such acts are irreversible and will impact the individual throughout his or her life.

### Negligence

This concerns children who lack attention and basic care or receive inappropriate care (deprivation of food, little or no hygiene, compromised sleep, etc.).



- The consequences of such acts can result in serious deficiencies, both physically, emotionally and/or psychologically. In the most serious cases, the phenomenon of neglect can result in death.

## **What to do when faced with a situation of mistreatment?**

Tom Pouce obliges all staff who have had knowledge of deprivation, ill-treatment or sexual abuse inflicted on children and staff members to immediately inform the Director of Tom Pouce and/or competent authorities directly.

## **In practice: Whom to call?**

Staff and Parents can write to [info@tom-pouce.nl](mailto:info@tom-pouce.nl), assured of the confidentiality and anonymous nature of their reporting (if they so wish). Staff and parents can also directly contact the Director of the French Lycee.

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Tom Pouce

