

Safeguards for Schools Curriculum FAQ

This FAQ is designed to support Christian school leaders, teachers, and parents as they begin to understand and implement the Safeguards abuse awareness and prevention curriculum. Rooted in biblical principles, this curriculum equips students with discernment, wisdom, and communication tools to stay safe while upholding the partnership between home and school.

1. Why is abuse prevention being taught in school instead of just at home?

Christian schools have historically deferred this topic to families, honoring the parent's role in children's education. However, with 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys experiencing abuse before age 18—and over half of those incidents involving someone the child knows—research shows that 95% of abuse can be prevented through education (ECAP). This curriculum is not a replacement of the home, but a partnership. By equipping students with discernment and wisdom, Christian schools reinforce safety and truth in alignment with God's Word.

2. How does this curriculum differ from secular or public school sex education programs?

Safeguards for Schools is not a sex education curriculum. It does not use anatomically correct dolls, teach explicit biology, or introduce gender ideology. Instead, it is built on biblical principles, emphasizing discernment, wisdom, communication skills, and role-playing scenarios where students learn how to recognize, respond to, and report unsafe situations—always in an age-appropriate, Christ-centered manner that upholds theological integrity and protects childhood innocence.

3. What if I am uncomfortable talking about these topics as a teacher or parent?

We understand that this can be uncomfortable—but silence is no longer a safe option. Safeguards for Schools is designed to support teachers and parents with gentle language, relatable stories, and developmentally appropriate engagement activities. It helps adults lead conversations from a place of biblical truth, love, and protection rather than fear or awkwardness.

4. Are children going to be taught about sexual abuse directly?

The curriculum focuses on recognizing unsafe behavior and practicing healthy boundaries, not on describing abuse in graphic detail. Students learn to evaluate words and actions, use their voice, and identify multiple trusted adults they can go to. These foundational safety skills are taught in ways appropriate for their age and understanding.

5. Will this curriculum contradict or override our family's values or practices?

Not at all. In fact, Safeguards for Schools supports families by reinforcing godly values taught at home. The curriculum includes Parent Pages for each unit to encourage further

conversation and teaching within the family. The school is not replacing the parent—it is standing beside them, helping children internalize safety principles.

6. How are the lessons structured for different grade levels?

Each of the six units includes 3–4 days of lessons per unit. Stories remain consistent across grade bands (K–2 and 3–5), while the engagement activities differ by grade level to match students' cognitive development. This approach ensures age-appropriate repetition, deepening understanding as students mature.

7. What if a student's 'trusted adult' is the abuser?

While Safeguards for Schools does not address every possible scenario, it equips students with discernment to evaluate when someone—even someone they trust—acts in an untrustworthy way. Students are taught to identify multiple trusted adults, not just one, to strengthen their support system and reduce vulnerability.

8. What academic skills are integrated into this curriculum?

Alongside biblical and safety instruction, Safeguards for Schools supports literacy, critical thinking, social-emotional learning, and oral communication through discussion questions, writing prompts, and interactive activities. These are developmentally appropriate and can be assessed as part of a student's learning.

9. How are parents involved in the process?

Each unit includes a Parent Page designed to keep parents informed and involved. These guides offer suggested language and activities for continuing the discussion at home. Schools are encouraged to host parent preview sessions or send home information explaining how the curriculum reflects the school's mission and values.

10. What biblical basis does this curriculum have for addressing abuse prevention?

The Bible commands us to protect and care for the vulnerable (Proverbs 31:8-9, Psalm 82:3-4, Matthew 18:6). Teaching children wisdom, discernment, and how to respond when someone crosses a boundary is not just wise—it's biblical. Safeguards is built entirely on this conviction: that education is a tool God uses to preserve and protect His children.

11. How will teachers be prepared to teach this content?

Teachers are provided with clear lesson plans, story scripts, discussion prompts, and options for engagement activities. Schools are encouraged to offer staff training or orientation using these materials so teachers feel confident and supported in presenting the content effectively.

12. What can we expect students to gain from this curriculum?

Students will develop a healthy awareness of personal safety, learn how to recognize unsafe behavior, and be empowered to seek help wisely. Central to the Safeguards curriculum is the practice of discernment as a biblical skill—the ability to distinguish between good and

evil, safe and unsafe, truth and deception. This is not just a protective measure; it is a spiritual discipline. Scripture consistently teaches the value of discernment:

- Hebrews 5:14, “Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”
- Proverbs 1:5, “Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22, “Test everything. Hold on to what is good. Reject every kind of evil.”

Through guided stories, discussions, and practice, students will sharpen their ability to evaluate actions, motives, and boundaries in light of God’s Word. They will understand that wisdom and discernment are tools God gives His people to walk safely in a fallen world (Proverbs 2:11). Most importantly, they will know that their safety, voice, and value are rooted in their identity as image-bearers of Christ.