الكلية الإسلامية العالمية بالمملكة المتحدة
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC COLLEGE
UNITED KINGDOM

IIC International Islamic College

National Quran Competition 2026

Safeguarding Policy

These Safeguarding Policy provisions govern safeguarding arrangements in connection with the IIC International Islamic College National Quran Competition 2026 (hereinafter referred to as "NQC 2026" or "the Competition"). The Competition is organised and administered by IIC International Islamic College (hereinafter referred to as "the College" or "IIC").

This Policy applies alongside the Competition Terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy, Media and Consent Policy, and any stage-specific safeguarding instructions issued by the Competition Administration Team.

By participating in NQC 2026, participants and their parents or guardians (where applicable) acknowledge and agree to comply with the safeguarding arrangements and behavioural expectations set out in this Policy.

> **For the purposes of this Policy, a child means any participant under the age of 18.**

1. Safeguarding Commitment

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all participants, particularly children and young people participating in the Competition.

The Competition will operate in a manner intended to:

- Promote the safety, welfare, and dignity of all participants
- Maintain a respectful and appropriately supervised environment
- Reduce avoidable safeguarding risk throughout all stages of the Competition
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are addressed appropriately and without unreasonable delay
- Uphold Islamic values, standards of conduct, and modesty expectations throughout all Competition activities

> **The welfare of the child is paramount.**

This Policy is intended to support and complement the Competition Terms and Conditions and should be interpreted alongside those documents where relevant.

2. Scope of the Policy

This Policy applies to all persons involved in or attending the Competition, including but not limited to:

- Participants
- Parents, fathers, guardians, and family members
- Judges
- Volunteers and event staff
- Contractors and service providers
- Security personnel
- Stallholders and exhibitors
- Visitors and attendees at the Finals event

This Policy applies throughout all stages of the Competition, including:

- Stage 1: Registration and Identity Verification
- Stage 2: Video Submission and Review
- Stage 3: Online Internal Semi-Finals
- Stage 4: Grand Finals at Masjid Taqwa, Leicester

- Overnight accommodation arrangements at Masjid Furqan, associated with the Finals

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for NQC 2026 is:

Name	Emran Ahmed
Role	Designated Safeguarding Lead — NQC 2026
Email	admin@theiic.uk

The DSL is responsible for:

- Receiving safeguarding concerns and safeguarding-related complaints
- Assessing safeguarding risk and determining appropriate action
- Maintaining safeguarding records where necessary
- Coordinating safeguarding responses during the Competition
- Liaising with external agencies where appropriate

Safeguarding concerns and safeguarding-related complaints may be submitted to admin@theiic.uk at any time.

4. General Safeguarding Principles

The Competition will take reasonable and proportionate steps to safeguard participants throughout all stages of the Competition. General safeguarding principles include:

- Appropriate supervision arrangements for all participants under 18
- Maintenance of professional boundaries by all adults involved in the Competition
- Avoidance of unnecessary one-to-one situations involving children
- Prompt reporting of safeguarding concerns or welfare issues
- Respectful and appropriate conduct by all participants and attendees
- Immediate prioritisation of safety and welfare where urgent concerns arise

Participants under 18 remain the responsibility of their parent, father, or guardian throughout those stages where supervision is required under the Competition rules.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Competition Administration Team

The Competition Administration Team is responsible for:

- Implementing this Policy across all stages of the Competition
- Communicating safeguarding expectations to participants and families
- Coordinating safeguarding arrangements throughout the Competition
- Supporting the DSL where required
- Maintaining secure safeguarding records where appropriate
- Coordinating venue safety and welfare arrangements at the Finals

5.2 Judges, Volunteers, Staff, Contractors, and Security Personnel

All Competition Personnel are expected to:

- Conduct themselves professionally and respectfully at all times
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with participants
- Follow safeguarding instructions and operational procedures
- Report safeguarding concerns promptly to the DSL or Competition Administration Team
- Avoid conduct that may create safeguarding risk or concern

5.3 Parents, Fathers, and Guardians

Parents, fathers, and guardians are expected to:

- Provide accurate information during registration
- Supervise participants where required by the Competition rules
- Ensure children remain appropriately supervised during the Finals event
- Raise safeguarding concerns promptly where necessary
- Ensure participants conduct themselves respectfully and appropriately

6. Participant Conduct and Behaviour

All participants, attendees, and Competition Personnel are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with Islamic values and appropriate standards of behaviour throughout all stages of the Competition.

The following conduct is not permitted:

- Bullying, intimidation, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour
- Abusive, threatening, or inappropriate language
- Conduct likely to place a participant at risk
- Attempts to undermine safeguarding or supervision arrangements
- Behaviour considered inappropriate, unsafe, or disruptive by the Competition Administration Team

The Competition reserves the right to take appropriate action where conduct is considered inappropriate, unsafe, or inconsistent with the ethos and safeguarding expectations of the Competition. Such action may include removal from the event, restriction of access, or disqualification where reasonably necessary.

7. Competition-Specific Safeguarding Arrangements

7.1 Stage 1 — Registration and Identity Verification

The following safeguarding arrangements apply during registration and identity verification:

- Parental consent is required for all participants under 18
- Identity documents may only be accessed by authorised Competition administrators
- Participant information and identity records must be stored securely
- Any concern relating to age, identity, eligibility, or category registration must be reviewed before progression to the next stage

7.2 Stage 2 — Video Submission and Review

For participants under the age of 18:

- Video recording must take place under the supervision of the participant's father
- The recording environment should be safe and appropriate
- Participants must not be subjected to inappropriate pressure or distress during recording
- Videos must be submitted only through the approved secure submission system
- Participants and families should avoid including sensitive or private information within recordings

7.3 Stage 3 — Online Internal Semi-Finals

For participants under the age of 18:

- A father or confirmed mahram guardian must be present throughout the online session
- Cameras must remain on during assessment unless otherwise instructed
- Participants should join from an appropriate and private environment
- Meeting links and session details must not be distributed publicly
- Private chat between children and judges or staff is not permitted
- Sessions may be paused where safeguarding or welfare concerns arise

7.4 Stage 4 — Grand Finals and Overnight Accommodation

The Grand Finals will be held at Masjid Taqwa, Leicester. Overnight accommodation for eligible participants (Categories A and B only) is arranged separately at Masjid Furqan. The following safeguarding arrangements apply:

- Participants under 18 must attend with their father or confirmed mahram guardian
- The Finals venue and overnight accommodation arrangements are male-only
- Parents and guardians remain responsible for supervising children throughout the event and overnight stay
- Children should remain within the supervision of their parent or guardian at all times
- Security personnel will be present on-site during the Finals event
- Any safeguarding concern arising during the Finals should be reported immediately to the DSL or Competition Administration Team

8. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

A safeguarding concern may arise through:

- A disclosure or complaint made by a participant
- Concerning behaviour or conduct observed by Competition Personnel
- Signs of distress or injury
- Unsafe supervision arrangements
- Inappropriate communication or interaction
- Concerns relating to an adult involved in the Competition

Any safeguarding concern must be reported promptly to the DSL or Competition Administration Team.

> **Where there is an immediate risk to safety or an urgent medical concern, emergency services must be contacted immediately (999) before any further internal reporting takes place.**

The DSL and Competition Administration Team may take such action as is reasonably considered necessary to protect the welfare, dignity, and safety of participants, including:

- Internal safeguarding action
- Contact with parents or guardians
- Referral to external agencies
- Escalation to emergency services or police where appropriate

9. Concerns or Allegations About Adults

Any safeguarding concern, allegation, or complaint relating to a judge, volunteer, staff member, contractor, helper, or attendee must be reported immediately to the DSL at admin@theiic.uk.

The welfare and safety of participants will take priority over reputational or operational considerations at all times.

Where appropriate, the Competition may:

- Restrict or suspend an individual's involvement pending review
- Remove individuals from duties or event access where reasonably necessary
- Escalate concerns to external authorities or safeguarding agencies where appropriate

10. Event Welfare and Safety

Parents and guardians remain responsible for supervising children attending the Finals event. Children should remain with their parent, father, or guardian throughout the event unless otherwise authorised by the Competition Administration Team.

The Competition accepts no responsibility for children who leave the supervision of their parent or guardian during the event.

Attendees are expected to cooperate respectfully with Competition staff, venue staff, and security personnel in relation to safety, welfare, and safeguarding arrangements.

Any emergency, welfare concern, unexplained absence, or safeguarding issue involving a participant should be reported immediately to Competition staff or security personnel.

Attendees should familiarise themselves with venue safety arrangements, emergency exits, and emergency procedures upon arrival.

11. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Safeguarding information will be handled confidentially and shared only where reasonably necessary:

- To protect the welfare of a participant
- To manage safeguarding risk appropriately
- To comply with legal obligations
- To assist emergency services or external agencies where appropriate

All safeguarding records and participant information will be processed and stored in accordance with applicable data protection legislation, including the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

12. Photography, Filming, and Media

Photography, filming, and media arrangements are governed separately under the Competition's Media and Consent Policy, which should be read alongside this Policy.

No participant should be photographed or filmed in a manner that is inappropriate, unsafe, humiliating, or invasive. Any concern relating to photography or filming of children should be reported to the DSL immediately.

13. Training and Briefing

Competition Personnel with safeguarding responsibilities should receive an appropriate safeguarding briefing before participating in the Competition. Briefings will cover:

- Safeguarding expectations and this Policy
- Reporting procedures
- Conduct expectations
- Escalation procedures
- Stage-specific safeguarding arrangements

14. External Safeguarding Contacts

Where appropriate, safeguarding concerns may also be referred to external safeguarding agencies, local authorities, or emergency services. Relevant contacts are as follows:

Organisation	Contact
Emergency Services	999
Non-Emergency Police	101
Leicester City Children's Social Care	0116 454 1004
Leicestershire Children's Services First Response	0116 305 0005
Leicester Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	0116 454 2440

The Competition Administration Team reserves the right to contact external agencies or statutory authorities where reasonably considered necessary for safeguarding or welfare purposes.

15. Amendments to This Policy

The College reserves the right to amend this Policy where reasonably necessary for safeguarding, operational, legal, or organisational purposes. Any material changes will be communicated through the Competition Administration Team or through official Competition communication channels.

16. Contact

For safeguarding concerns, safeguarding-related complaints, or safeguarding queries relating to NQC 2026, please contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Emran Ahmed
Email	admin@theiic.uk
WhatsApp	07984 531669