



Europa School UK
Thame Lane
Culham, Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3DZ

Tel: +44 (0)1235 524060

E-mail: reception@europaschool.uk

Website: <https://europaschooluk.org>

Europa School UK – Pastoral Relationships Policy

Version and Date		Action/Notes
V1.0	25/03/2025	
Review Date March 2028		Review frequency: every three years

Pastoral Support and Counselling

1. General

Europa provides pastoral support and counselling as part of our work with children and young people.

2. Confidentiality, Privacy and Safeguarding

Counselling is private, subject to normal safeguarding policies.

In accordance with other safeguarding policies, we will always clarify the level of confidentiality we are offering to the child or young person at the start of any counselling work.

3. Informing Parents and Guardians

Common practice, when working in a pastoral rôle that has evolved into a longer-term pastoral or counselling relationship, is to do so informing someone with parental responsibilities of the child or young person concerned.

However, sometimes the child or young person will want to maintain privacy. Also, short-term counselling often occurs in the day-to-day work of the school, and it would be impractical and counter-productive to expect parental consent to be sought for every pastoral intervention.

Those members of the staff offering counselling will:

- always be transparent with colleagues about caseload, and consult colleagues, managers and supervisors about counselling or pastoral work;

- contract with the child or young person at the start of work, setting clear boundaries around privacy and safeguarding;

- inform parents or guardians, when it is appropriate to do so – noting that “children are able to consent to counselling without parental consent, if Gillick competent. [...] and when working with children, the counsellor will assess whether the young person fully understands what is involved in counselling and work collaboratively with parents, if appropriate.” (BACP, 2023)

References

BACP (2023), *School-based counselling – the essential guide for school leaders, mental health leads and commissioners*.

ACC (2004), *Ethics and Practice*.