

PEAS' Safeguarding Standards and Monitoring Tool

Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS) is a not-for-profit organisation working to expand educational opportunities to those most in need. PEAS has built and runs a network of 46 schools in rural areas of Uganda and Zambia. PEAS also works with governments to support a further 300+ schools across Uganda, Zambia and Ghana. External evidence shows that PEAS has stronger child protection policies, training and implementation than non-PEAS school and students feel infrastructure is safer than in government schools ([EPRC 2018](#)). PEAS schools foster a student body that feels more confident and secure at school and establish a self-reinforcing cycle of strong safeguarding (Jigsaw 2021).

PEAS' Approach: Safeguarding Standards and Monitoring Tool

The [PEAS Safeguarding Standards](#) are a set of practical, output-focused standards that help schools uphold strong safeguarding practices. They were developed by observing key successes and challenges related to safeguarding within PEAS' school networks and international best practice. The Safeguarding Standards have been critical to translating PEAS' policies into practice and building school-level autonomy and accountability for creating safe schools.

The standards outline 22 key descriptors of what strong safeguarding practices should look like in a PEAS school. For each descriptor, several mandatory activities are outlined, as well as the key person responsible. Outlining the activities required to uphold each standard has been critical to fostering school-level ownership and accountability of the Standards. They have also increased transparency, helping make expectations clear. PEAS has also developed a [Safeguarding Standards Monitoring Tool](#), which allows school leaders and staff to monitor their implementation and progress and create termly action plans. This also ensures that the Standards support leaders to drive real, lasting improvements that create a safe learning environment for all.

Making safeguarding accessible - Keeping Learners at the Centre

At the heart of the PEAS Safeguarding Standards is a commitment to centering learners in all safeguarding efforts. This means that safeguarding knowledge and guidance must be not only robust, but also accessible and engaging for the learners themselves. The Standards explicitly recognise that for safeguarding to be truly effective, learners need to understand their rights and responsibilities and have the confidence and tools to act.

One of the key standards states that 'Students are aware of their rights and responsibilities'. To achieve this, the Standards require schools to deliver regular awareness sessions, develop and share learner-friendly versions of child protection policies and launch child-friendly safeguarding campaigns. These activities make safeguarding concepts accessible for students, empowering them to recognise, respond to, and report concerns in a way that is meaningful to them.

Moreover, the Standards emphasise the importance of the physical school environment in promoting safeguarding awareness. Schools are encouraged to make safeguarding guidance visible and accessible - displays of PEAS safeguarding policies, including versions tailored specifically for children, as well as awareness posters, are placed strategically around the school. This ensures that information is always within reach, reinforcing messages in a format designed for young learners.

By embedding these child-centred approaches throughout the Safeguarding Standards, PEAS ensures that learners are not passive recipients but active participants in creating and upholding a safe and supportive school environment. This focus on accessible, child-friendly materials is fundamental to fostering a culture where every student is informed, included and protected.