

Roles and Responsibilities of Designated Safeguarding Leads

Rise, an initiative of [Schmidt Futures](#) and the [Rhodes Trust](#), is a global program that finds extraordinary young people who need opportunity and supports them for life as they use their talents to serve others; it is one of the largest scholarship programs in the world.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are responsible for reviewing and ensuring the safeguarding processes and procedures are upheld within an organisation. Rise DSLs promote the safety and welfare of Rise participants at all times.

DSLs are also the named contacts publicized to all involved in Rise for disclosing any suspicions or allegations of safeguarding concerns and are responsible for ensuring that those concerns are escalated to the appropriate agencies and/or individuals without delay. To ensure there is always a DSL available to Rise participants, Rise has several DSLs who you can contact. Their contact information is provided below.

DSLs are appropriately trained and understand relevant policies on safeguarding and child protection in order to carry out their responsibilities. This is done in partnership with organisations around the world, so DSLs are aware of referral procedures of the relevant local authorities for the country in which a Rise participant lives. This training is also regularly refreshed in order to reflect changes within safeguarding and child protection legislation and processes.

Please note that it is not the DSL's responsibility to decide if a child has experienced harm or neglect. Rather, a DSL's role is to conduct inquiries as necessary and proportionate to the concern raised or allegation made; they are guided by the advice of statutory agencies, as appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Rise DSLs

A Rise DSL performs the following duties:

- Reviews safeguarding policies and processes to ensure that they are in line with local laws and international safeguarding processes.
- Ensures policies and processes are updated, annually at a minimum and more frequently if necessary (e.g., in response to concerns or allegations, as appropriate, or in response to legislative changes).
- Stays abreast of safeguarding updates and legislation.
- Receives and clarifies any reports on disclosures of concerns or allegations and follows outlined procedures to ensure reports are appropriately handled internally or by responsible local entities such as the police, local authority, or social services.
- Manages any safeguarding incidents and escalates as necessary to the authorities and/or the Rise Programme Joint Committee (PJC).

- Securely maintains and manages a log of any safeguarding reports within the organisation in line with data protection and safeguarding policies.
- Ensures all Rise representatives within the programme understand the importance of safeguarding, mental health, and emotional well-being, and are trained suitably for their role.
- Ensure that all Rise representatives receive appropriate safeguarding training at a level and regularity that is commensurate with their roles for Rise, and which is responsive to legislative and/or best practice updates and to any incidents.
- Ensures all Rise representatives are sufficiently and appropriately background checked, including criminal checks where possible, ahead of any interactions with Rise participants.
- Maintains and advertises a simple-yet-effective reporting process for disclosures of concerns or allegations, ensuring in particular that Rise participants and their parents/guardians know who they can contact if they have any safeguarding concerns and what steps will be taken in response to those concerns.
- Liaises frequently with DSLs in Rise partner organisations to ensure they maintain an aligned approach to safeguarding and child protection in accordance with local laws.
- In collaboration with relevant partner organisations, is aware of who or what agency is responsible for child protection within the locality of Rise participants; they have their contact details and know how to contact them.
- Liaises as required with the PJC on any safeguarding reports that may pose reputational risk or that are of significant proportions, meaning the information must be officially reported to the relevant organisations.

Contact the Rise DSLs

If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable in a Rise environment, you can contact the Rise DSLs at safeguarding@risefortheworld.org. The following Rise team members serve as DSLs:

- Mark German, Director, Operations
- Rebecca Warren, Director, Program Design
- Laura Lewis, Deputy Director, Selection
- Sope Adekola, Manager, Selection