CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Objective

Building a secure learning environment is vital to ensuring children are safe at school at all times. It covers all factors like school transport, medical facilities, physical infrastructure, toilets, staff training and forms of punishments and abuse.

Scope

• Ensure that adults who work in the school, including volunteers, don't pose a risk to children

• Make sure staff are trained, know how to respond to concerns and keep-up-to-date with policy and practice

• Teach children and young people about staying safe

• Maintain an environment where children feel confident to approach any member of staff if they have a worry or problem.

• Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases.

• Examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by corporal punishment, bullying, terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disasters, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation, pornography, and prostitution and recommend appropriate remedial measures

• Look into matters relating to children in need of special care and protection, including children in distress, marginalised and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and and recommend appropriate remedial measures

• Undertake periodic review of existing policies, programmes, and other activities on child rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children.

• Inquire into complaints and take suo moto notice of matters related to: Deprivation and violation of child rights; Non implementation of ......
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• Laws providing for protection and development of children; Non compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children or take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities.

• Such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of child rights and any other matter incidental to the above function.

Procedure

• Children of Classes 1 to 5 are allowed to leave only on production of Escort Cards.

• Teachers, Support Staff, Student Council members and support staff are put on duty at the school gate and other venues to monitor discipline and safety of students.

• The Facilitator School Administration, teachers and support staff are at the gates to escort students to the respective venues and board their buses during dispersal by distributing escort cards especially made for bus students and attendance is checked.

• Every person on the premises has a valid Identity Card.

• The security and designated staff supervise the entry and exit of all people belonging to various outsourced agencies throughout the day.

• Safety of electrical installations monitored every month by School Electricians.

• Fire extinguishers are placed at appropriate places.

• Fire Drills are carried out periodically involving security, staff, teachers, housekeeping staff and designated senior students.

• Evacuation exercises involving students and staff are carried out at least twice a year. Expert help is sought if necessary for training.

• Safe and purified drinking water is provided through Aquaguard machines.

• More than 150 CCTV’s are installed in all classrooms, laboratories, examination hall, libraries, staircases, corridors, play areas, open spaces and other strategic locations like entrance of staffrooms and washrooms.
• The school has a medical unit with a nurse (outsourced) which is equipped to administer first aid as and when required. The school also has arrangements with at least one hospital/nursing home in the neighbourhood so that students/teachers/staff can be taken there during an emergency.

• Washrooms for Girls and Boys are separate and are checked by female and male support staff respectively for continuously cleaning as well as monitoring of students in and out of the washrooms to check any untoward incident.

• It is ensured that children report incidents of bullying. This could be a Class Teacher, any member of staff in whom they have confidence, the School Authorities, School Counsellor or the Nurse. The bully must be left in no doubt that bullying is unacceptable and that this conduct will be systematically monitored. (Refer to Anti Bullying Policy)

• Chemicals (cleaning solutions) meant for cleaning washrooms are stored out of students’ reach and the support staff do regular checks to ensure students’ safety is not compromised.

• CCTVs installed strategically in corridors (outside washrooms) also monitor students going in and out of the washrooms.

• Play areas especially Roof Tops are covered with a thick padding material to ensure safety and minimum injury impact, if any.

• For Field Trips (local), a format is in place where the details of transport, teachers accompanying, attendance (number of students dispersed/arrived) are maintained.

• For Excursions, phone numbers of parents and medical history of students are kept with the Teacher-in-Charge of the excursion.

• Individual needs of girl students are catered to by female staff only.

• Regular Life Skills classes are held for students. Children are taught about the difference between a “Good Touch” and a “Bad Touch.”

• Regular psychological counselling sessions are held by School Counsellor in groups as well as with individuals for students and parents to address problems and advise the School Management on specific interventions as and when required.
Students are exposed to different forms of self defence through regular classes (yoga, karate, etc) as well as specialised workshops conducted by resource persons.

The school investigates reports of sexual or any kind of harassment occurring between students and other members of the school community, regardless of whether the alleged harassment occurred on or off school grounds; during or outside school hours; or using school-owned or personally-owned electronic devices (e.g., postings to digital media and electronic forums such as WhatsApp/Twitter and Facebook or text messages). Students are prohibited from using school computers or the school network to harass others. (Refer to School Policy regarding Sexual and other Unlawful Harassment).