



**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
(2022-'23)
CHINMAYA VIDYALAYA
KUNNUMPURAM**





CHINMAYA VIDYALAYA, KUNNUMPURAM

Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Child Protection Policy is of paramount importance in this programmed social framework; hence it becomes imperative that adequate Child Protection Policy be adopted to ensure a safe learning environment for children in School.

Recent times have witnessed a surge of incidents involving violent acts being perpetrated against children, especially in schools. These incidents have left a deep scar on the impressionable minds of children and have led to a fear psychosis in the minds of parents, guardians and the community at large.

A safe environment within schools becomes vital for all stakeholders involved and it is only justifiable, that all measures and steps must be undertaken to ensure maximum his/ her safety and care, given their high degree of vulnerability.

The wellbeing of the students has always been the focal point and of utmost importance our school. It is with this intention that we have decided to bring out a booklet on child Protection policy which needs to be revamped soon encompassing legal experts, Stake holders etc.

Why Child Protection Policy is important.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kunnumpuram is committed to the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children in line with the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. Child protection policy helps to create a safe and positive environment for children. The procedures outlined in the policy are in line with the Juvenile Justice (Care of protection of children) JJ ACT, and The Protection of Children from sexual offences (POCSO ACT 2012).

The Staff must be aware of the following types of abuse and understand that they are prohibited as per the policy of state Government.

- **Physical abuse:** The intentional use of physical force against a child that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity. This includes hitting, beating, kicking, shaking, biting, strangling, scalding, burning, poisoning and suffocating.
- **Emotional abuse:** Emotional abuse includes the failure to provide a developmentally appropriate, supportive environment, so that the child can develop a stable and full range of emotional and social competencies commensurate with his or her personal potential and in the context of the society in which the child dwells. Acts include restriction of movement, patterns of belittling, denigrating, scapegoating, threatening, scaring, discriminating, ridiculing or other non-physical forms of hostile or rejecting treatment.
- **Neglect and negligent treatment:** We hold ourselves responsible that all children in our class are free from our neglect. Neglect is the failure on the part of the parents, guardian, teacher or other responsible party to provide for the child's basic needs, such as food, shelter, medical care, educational opportunities, or protection and supervision. It is abuse through omission of the necessary environment and resources

for the child to reach their full potential; and the act of not recognizing physical or emotional abuse.

- **Exploitation:** Commercial or other exploitation of a child refers to use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others. This includes, but is not limited to, child labour and child prostitution. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, or spiritual, moral or social-emotional development.
- **Sexual abuse:**

. Sexual abuse is an act or behaviour which constitutes a sexual offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, as amended from time to time. Such sexual offences include penetrative sexual assault (including rape), non-penetrative sexual assault (including touching the private parts of a Child), sexual harassment (including stalking a Child, showing a Child pornography and making a Child exhibit his/her body) and using a Child for pornographic purposes (including storing of pornographic material involving a Child for commercial purposes).

Scope of Application of the Child Protection Policy

This CPP is applicable to all part time and full-time employees of the school, as well as whoever visits the school Premises and any other person who has been bound to the Child Protection Policy as per the school rules.

Statutory Frameworks

- The children Act 1989
- The children Act 2004
- Children and social work Act 2017
- Education Act 2002 (Section 175/157)

- Keeping children safe in education (DIE 2021)
- Working together of safeguard children (DIE 2018)
- The education regulations 2005
- Sexual offences Act 2003
- Section 26, The counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (PREVENT duty)
- Female genital mutilation Act 2003(section74, serious crime Act 2015)
- Anti-social Behaviour, crime and policy Act 2014
- Serious violence strategy 2018
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools (DIE 2017).

Measures to Prevent Child Abuse

- All Staff will undergo child protection awareness training.
- Enforce Child safety guidelines that are required to be followed by the Staff and during excursions, picnics and educational tours, ensuring that all Staff are aware of the policy and sign a copy of the Child Protection Policy.
- Attempt to ensure that visitors to a school are accompanied by a Staff Member and a register to be maintained on whoever visits the school premises.
- If an organization undertakes any research on Children or collects data on them, ensuring that Children are not harmed or traumatized in any way during the process.
- Various committees including Internal Complaints, Grievance Redressal, Sexual Harassment, Child Welfare, Anti- Bullying etc. are set up to serve as complaints and redressal bodies.
- Complaint/ Suggestion box is provided in school so that students can make written complaints. Any complaint of sexual abuse, whether received through the drop box or otherwise will be acted upon immediately.

- CCTV cameras were installed in school premises at all strategic places along with the warning.
- Toll Free number and child helpline will be provided and made known and displayed on notice board along with names of teachers designated to handle such cases. Centralized Child helpline number 1098 will be popularized and displayed at prominent places in the schools.

City Child Protection Committee (CCPC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Principal	Chief child safety officer
Vice Principal	Child safety support officer
Counsellor	Team leader for child safety
Teachers	member of Child protection and safety
Students	member of council of prefects

This is a committee in the school to help with the redressal decisions and will conduct reviews (once every 2 months) of the working of the CPP in the school and implement any additional measures to strengthen child protection measures.

GUIDELINES FOR THE STAFF

DO'S	DON'TS
Report any incidents or cases to the committee	Hug, Kiss, Rub a child in an inappropriate way
Protect and safeguard students from any physical, emotional or sexual offences	corporal punishment
Be impartial while dealing with cases	Use language that will hurt mentally or emotionally
Develop school's policies with regard to child protection, safeguarding and maintaining confidentiality of all case documents	Threaten a Child
Ensure that the proceedings are fair and do not hamper the child's development and the future opportunities in any way	Discrimination, Race, Culture, Age, Gender, Disability, Religion, Sexuality or any other status
Ensure safe practices for staff recruitment	Give cash or any gifts to children

Schedule regular mandatory training for staff	engaging in sexually prohibited games
Liaise with local/medical/legal/services	Take any photograph that could potentially violate their privacy
Staff members are made aware of the procedures for student safeguarding, child abuse prevention, recognition, intervention and reporting	Take children for outings only in groups and prior permission of authority.
Respond appropriately to disclosures or concerns which relate to the well-being of a child	Spreading rumors about the child

COMPLAINT AND REDRESSAL MECHANISM

The Vidyalaya shall have systems of ensuring that there is no abuse, neglect and mal treatment and this shall include the staff being aware of what constitutes abuse, neglect and maltreatment as well as early indicators of abuse, neglect and mal treatment and how to respond to these.

In the event of any physical, sexual or emotional abuse, including neglect of children in an institution by those responsible for caring and protection the following steps may be considered.

- Child may report to any staff member in the institution.
- Staff member must report the incident immediately (within 24 hours) to the person – in charge.

- In case the person- in- charge is involved the complaint must be placed before the management committee/1098 child line services. following which the person – in charge must place a report of the same (Within 24 hours) before the board or children’s court who in turn, shall order for special investigation.
- Shall also inform the chairperson of the management committee and place a copy of the incident and subsequent action taken before the management committee in its next meeting.
- Shall depute a counselor or another adult who the child may be comfortable with, to counsel the child.

RECORDING

* All suggestions received through the suggestion box and action taken as a result of the decisions made in the emergency meeting action required to be taken shall be placed for discussion and review in the monthly meeting of the management committee.

* The complaints and action taken by the management committee are duly recorded in the children’s suggestion book, action and follow up shall be communicated to the children’s committees after every monthly meeting of the management committee.

*Caseworker shall similarly keep a record of the complaints made by the child with regard to facilities in the institution with a note of the steps taken thereon.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Safeguarding children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staffs in schools.

- All staff in schools have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals.

- Staff who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Parents should be informed prior to a child protection contact referral, unless it is considered to do so might place the child at increased risk of significant harm by :

- The behavioral response it prompts.
- Leading to an unreasonable delay
- Leading to the risk of loss of evidential material.

Conclusion

Our Vidyalaya is committed to the overall development of the child; and protection of the child from any sought of abuse is the prime importance.

The Child Protection Policy is subject to change on the discretion of the Management and the Policy will be reviewed annually.

CHILD PROTECTION REPORT FORM

This form must be used by members of staff to report incidents that raise any concern about possible child abuse. Care must be taken to report information pertaining to child abuse, accurately and confidentially. A hard copy of the form should be handed over to the Child Protection Officers.

This document has to be signed by all parties concerned

Name of the person filing the report: -----

Nature of relationship with the student (teacher, tutor, counselor) :

Student involved: _____

Date & Day: _____

Any witness(es) : 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Details of Concern

A record of the incident of what you saw or heard, including the actual nature of abuse in an accurate form, without any embellishment, or an extra record – as far as possible- of anything said to you by the child is to be made. Include relevant comments made by you, preferably in verbatim form. Avoid asking too many questions than are necessary to clarify any uncertainty. Please attach any information that will support your report of the incident which may consist of email trail notes, other staff comments etc.

