

POSCO ACT 2012

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

“The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (the said Act) has been enacted to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography and the said Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.”

Introduction:

Central Board of Secondary Education Circular Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act 2012. All children have an equal right to access education in an environment that is safe, protective and conducive to the overall development. The challenges of gender inequality, eve teasing and sexual abuse in school environment call for increased awareness and creating synergy among parents, teachers and schools. In order to ensure strict compliance of the Protection of child from sexual offence (POCSO) Act 2012, CBSE has taken several initiatives and actions for creating awareness about sexual exploitation among the school children.

To comply with the guidelines and provisions of the ‘Act’, the School Management constituted a well equipped and empowered „committee“ immediately after the said ‘Act’ came into existence. The members of the committee are well versed and acquainted with provisions of the ‘Act’.

To ensure the safety and preventive action for such occurrences school management has decided to sensitize the staff other than committee members to play the vital role regarding this in the campus in the following way.

1. Teachers, Management and all employees of institutions need to be made aware about the provisions of the Act, some of which cast a duty on them to report instance of child abuse.
2. In- house induction sessions should be held for all teachers to include a specific module on gender sensitization.
3. Ensure and promote a harmonious school/classroom environment and inclusiveness.
4. Provision for guidance and counseling facilities in schools Teachers in general should be trained to attend to adolescent (gender) related issues, conduct of adolescent education programmes and special activities that promote gender equality and sensitivity.

5. Programmes for empowerment of girls, Camps on sensitization of girls on health and sanitation issues, karate/self defence training of girl students should be conducted at regular intervals. Programmes like folk dance, nukkad natak, poster competitions, quiz, debate, exhibition can also be conducted to foster gender equality.

6. An improved response system and alert administrative machinery is required to take immediate action on reported cases of misbehavior.

7. Complaint / Suggestion box should be provided in the school so that students can make written complaints. Any complaint of sexual abuse, whether received through the drop box or otherwise needs to be acted upon immediately.

8. Provision for CCTV cameras are made in school premises at all strategic places along with the warning.

9. Close monitoring of academic performance and psychological behavior particularly in cases of sudden decline in performance, lack of interest, depression and aloofness should be noticed to give proper counseling to the children. Informal conversations with the students by way of discussions with peers and planned observations in classrooms and playground can also be helpful.

10. Toll Free number and child helpline is provided and made known and displayed on notice board along with names of teachers designated to handle such cases. School management and staff are jointly creating awareness and participate in averting such offences as part of their foremost duty.

Objectives of the Committee:

Keeping the essence of the 'Act' in view, the school management has set some goals to be accomplished by the committee, which is elaborated in the following manner.

- To formulate the policy to investigate and review complaints or grievances of the students.
- To create awareness of availability of members for students to report grievances.
- To investigate the causes of grievances
- To ensure effectual solution depending upon the gravity of the grievances.

Meetings of the Committee:

The 'Committee' convenes meeting twice in a year (at the beginning of 1st Term and 2nd Term) just to analyse and discuss about the accomplishment of the set goals and to take all the safety and preventive measures in such a manner that such incidence should not take place which is soul of the 'Act'. The school management gladly expresses its reviews that the committee have been achieving its goals satisfactorily so far. For this, every year the 'Committee' is renewed and reconstituted as per the provisions of the Act and need of the hour.