

POCSO COMMITTEE
(PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT, 2012)

To safeguard the interests of the learners, G.D. Goenka Public School, Aligarh reconstituted the POCSO Committee (set up under the provisions of Prevention of Children from Sexual Offence Act 2012) on 01st April 2025. The Committee works towards safeguarding learners from the challenges they face during their formative years at school. It undertakes age appropriate initiatives to create awareness about sexual exploitation and to ensure that all learners are aware of their rights and responsibilities towards themselves. Training sessions are conducted for the faculty and staff to help them recognize and report issues of abuse and neglect. Complaint Boxes are placed strategically and checked regularly by the Committee members to address the complaints, if any.

Through its awareness campaigns and programmes, the Committee strives to ensure that all learners are treated with dignity and respect at all times. In a series of awareness programmes and special school assemblies conducted throughout the year, learner participation is encouraged. Age appropriate videos are shown and self-defense sessions are also conducted as a part of the awareness programmes.

The POCSO committee comprises of the following members: Term of Office: 3 years

Sl No	Members	Designation
1	Dr. Anubhav Lodhi	Principal
2	Mrs. Soniya Jain	Coordinator
3	Mr. Tanveer Hussain	PGT
4	Mr. Komit Ujjawal	Admin
5	Nikita Singh	Student (Girl)
6	Anant Singh Chauhan	Student (Boy)

CCTV Cameras are placed at strategic points. **Complaint boxes are easily accessible to students. Awareness Programmes are conducted every month.**

PURPOSE

As we are responsible for children during a specific part of each day, it is our primary responsibility to safeguard each child and address any concerns regarding their emotional or physical well-being. The policies of the Child Protection Committee apply to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the School.

The guidelines set out in this policy are designed to safe guard and protect our students by ensuring that every adult working in our school – teachers, non-teaching staff, governors and volunteers–has clear guidance on the actions required when child abuse is suspected.

DECLARATION BY THE SCHOOL

The issue of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school, and we recognise that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offences.

We ensure that the recommended child protection procedures are followed with

empathy and professionalism.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- The Child Protection Policy will remain available to all parents via the school's website and will be reviewed after every three years.

Parents will be asked to supply the School with the names of all persons who have permission to collect their child from School (or to confirm that their child may leave the grounds unaccompanied). They will also be asked to inform the school of any changes to this routine.

- Parents are asked to inform the school about arrangements following any separation or divorce.
- Parents will be made aware that staff may on occasions have to help change student's clothes when administering first aid, after toilet accidents, for HPE and on other such occasions.
- In the event of a parent making a complaint about a member of staff, volunteer or student, the school's complaints procedure should be followed and the complaint addressed directly to the Principal. If the complaint is against the Principal it should be addressed to the Chairperson of the Management.
- The complaint should be documented by parents making the complain.
- If a complaint includes an accusation against another child, the accused child's parents will be informed. Discipline will remain solely in the hands of Child Protection Committee (CPC).
- Emphasis will be placed on both early detection and swift intervention, However no member of the school's staff will conduct an investigation directly and signs of possible abuse will not be considered by the School as proof.
- Staff will act promptly by referring the concern to the designated CPC member. Together they will discuss the concern and complete the incident report.

- The Designated Teacher will meet with the Principal (or the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in Principal's absence) to plan an appropriate course of action. A written record of all decisions must be made.
- The teacher and/or CPC member will speak further with the child to provide reassurance and to clarify and document what has happened.
- The CPC member, in consultation with the Principal, will decide whether, in the best interests of the child, the matter needs to be referred to a counsellor.
- Where there are concerns about possible abuse, the CPC member and the Principal will inform the POSCO wing of the Police department.
- If a complaint of possible child abuse is made against a member of staff, services the member of staff may be removed from duties involving direct contact with pupils, and may be suspended from duty as a precautionary measure, pending investigations.
- In all cases, it will be explained to the child that information may need to be shared with the CPC and possibly with other agencies. No promise of confidentiality will be given. Detailed records of all concerns and actions related to suspicions of abuse will be maintained. All notes must be written objectively, without speculation, and immediately following the incident they describe.

HOW A PARENT CAN RAISE A CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN

If a parent has a child protection concern they can follow the steps below:

1. Talk to the class teacher.
2. If the parent is still concerned, they speak the Principal or the designated member of CPC.
3. Summarize the complaint and the discussion with the CPC member/Principal in an email.

THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse. Abuse may occur on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time. While certain signs may give rise to concern, they are not in themselves proof that abuse has occurred.

ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED CPC MEMBER

The designated CPC member will:

- Promote a child protection ethos in the school
- Regularly develop and update the school's Child Protection Policy .
- Ensure parents receive a copy of the child protection policy every two years.
- Provide training to all school staff, including support staff, on child protection—covering awareness of “stranger danger,” how to respond to perceived threats, e-safety, and the development of appropriate standards of behaviour.
- Be available to discuss child protection concerns with any member of staff.
- Maintain accurate records of all child protection concerns and keep them in a secure location.
- Make referrals to the School's designated counsellor.
- Stay informed about current policies and best practices related to child protection.

DEFINITION:WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

1. Neglect

Persistent or significant failure to meet a child's basic needs, including- Poor hygiene, Constant hunger, Inadequate or inappropriate clothing, Constant tiredness, Lack of supervision, Untreated illnesses, Lack of peer relationships and Compulsive stealing

2. Physical Abuse

Deliberate physical injury or the failure to prevent such injury.

Possible signs or symptoms of physical abuse include:

- Unexplained bruises(in places difficult to mark)
- Untreated injuries
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Fear of going home

3. Sexual Abuse

4. Emotional Abuse

Persistent emotional ill-treatment causing severe and adverse effects on emotional development.

Possible signs or symptoms of emotional abuse include:

- Bulling of others
- Sudden change in personality(e.g. from out going to withdrawn)
- Difficulty forming/maintaining relationships with others
- Attention seeking behaviour
- Bedwetting and soiling
- Sudden speech disorders
- Low self-esteem

THE PREVENTATIVE ACTION PLAN

An awareness of "stranger danger"; an understanding of how to respond to perceived threats; care in regard to e-safety; and the development of standards of behaviour that are appropriate.

Safe Handling and Use of Reasonable Force – A policy on physical restraint is in place. Staff are advised to use physical intervention only as a last resort and must use the minimum force necessary to prevent injury.

Intimate Care-As a general principle, members of staff are advised not to make unnecessary physical contact with pupils. It is, however, unrealistic to suggest that staff should touch pupils only in emergencies; In particular, a distressed child may need reassurance that involves appropriate physical comforting.

The Internet and Digital Technologies – While recognizing the educational benefits of digital tools, the school is aware of the risks. Parents will receive prior intimation when internet use is required in class. The school advises parents to discourage unsupervised internet use, social media, and messaging apps on smartphones.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the CPC and updated as needed, particularly in light of new guidance from government agencies or child welfare experts.

Sexual Harassment Redressal Committee

We undertake topics like sexual harassment very seriously. It is also discussed in detail with all children across the school to ensure all problems are addressed and reported. A safety box to address any complaint for harassment or complaints of any kind is placed in the corridors of all building so that children can express their grievances fearlessly.