

## POCSO Committee



All children have an equal right to access education in an environment that is safe, protective and conducive to overall development. The challenges of gender inequality, eve-teasing and sexual abuse in the school environment call for increased awareness and creating synergy among parents, teachers and school.

In order to ensure strict compliance with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, CBSE has taken several initiatives and actions for creating awareness about sexual exploitation among school children.

The committee will take appropriate and necessary action on reported cases of misbehaviour or sexual offences in the school premises.

### **The Role of School Authorities and Teachers**

School authorities and teachers play a vital role in preventing child sexual abuse.

LFCS creates an environment that is safe and secure for children, where they feel comfortable to openly discuss any issues or concerns they may have.

By providing education on the topic of child sexual abuse, school authorities and teachers help to raise awareness of the issue and empower children to protect themselves.

Additionally, school authorities and teachers are alert to signs of abuse and take appropriate action if they suspect that a child may be at risk.

### **1. Draft a Child Protection Policy**

It is the duty of school authorities and teachers to protect their students from sexual abuse.

They can do this by drafting a child protection policy that outlines the procedures to be followed in case of an incident of abuse.

The policy should include:

- A reporting mechanism for incidents of abuse
- A clear list of prohibited behaviours
- Roles and responsibilities of all staff members in relation to child protection

### **2. Take Proactive Measures to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse**

There are many things that school authorities can do to prevent child sexual abuse:

- CCTV cameras and warning signs must be installed in strategic areas of schools
- Monitor activities of staff members, visitors and strangers
- Keep track of who children are leaving with
- Monitor activities involving photography, internet use and technology
- Conduct thorough background checks of faculty before hiring

### **3. Organise Awareness Sessions**

- Conduct awareness sessions on good touch, bad touch and sexual abuse
- Encourage children to report abuse
- Conduct regular sessions on personal safety, body parts and online safety
- Create a safe environment for students to ask questions
- Train staff on handling disclosures and POCSO provisions
- Inform parents about supporting their children

### **4. Responsibilities of Teachers and Parents**

- Teachers and parents share responsibility for ensuring child safety
- Teachers should identify signs of abuse and respond appropriately
- Parents should educate children about body safety and monitor activities

Both teachers and parents must:

- Be aware of school policies and procedures
- Know whom to contact in case of concerns
- Maintain appropriate and respectful behaviour towards children

### **Precautions Taken by LFCS to Prevent Abuse**

- All staff are trained to identify signs of abuse
- A clear and regularly updated child protection policy is in place
- Regular communication with parents about child safety
- Age-appropriate education on safety and relationships

### **POCSO Guidelines in LFCS**

- A School Complaints Committee is established
- Any suspected abuse must be reported immediately
- Complaint/suggestion box is available for students
- Immediate action is taken on complaints
- A full-time counsellor is available for students

### **POCSO Guidelines for Teachers**

- Be sensitive to children's needs
- Create a safe environment for reporting abuse
- Stay alert to behavioural changes
- Report disclosures immediately to authorities

**The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Committee (POCSO) re-constituted as under follows:**

S.No	Name of the Staff Members	Official Position	Designation
1	Mrs. Bibi R	Principal	Chairperson
2	Dr. Olivia George	Academic Coordinator	Member secretary
3	Mr. Naveen John J	Correspondent	Member
4	Mrs. Mabel J	Vice Principal	Member
5	Adv. G M Praveen	Counsellor	Member
6	Mrs. Bella Gladis V	Wellness Teacher	Member
7	Mrs. Maya V S	TGT	Member
8	Mrs. Mary Sharon R	PRT	Member

*Bibi*

**Principal**

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