

## **POCSO COMMITTEE**

The **POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences)** Committee at **Krishna Public School, Raipur** plays a critical role in safeguarding children from any form of sexual abuse or exploitation.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-**

- 1. Ms ANUPAMA LAMA (COUNSELOR)**
- 2. Ms KARTHIKA JAGAN**

Below are the key roles and responsibilities of the POCSO Committee at the school:

#### **1. Awareness and Education**

- **Conduct Awareness Programs:** The committee is responsible for conducting workshops, training sessions, and awareness programs for students, teachers, staff, and parents about child sexual abuse and the POCSO Act.
- **Educate on Rights and Protection:** Inform children and school staff about their rights and how to protect themselves from abuse. Teach students about appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

#### **2. Complaint Redressal Mechanism**

- **Establish a Reporting System:** The committee should establish a clear, confidential, and accessible system for students to report any instances of abuse or harassment.
- **Provide a Safe Space:** Create an environment where students feel safe and supported in reporting any abuse or suspicion of abuse without fear of retaliation.
- **Immediate Action:** Take prompt and appropriate action once a complaint is made, including investigating the matter thoroughly and ensuring the safety of the child involved.

#### **3. Investigation and Documentation**

- **Investigate Allegations:** The committee is responsible for investigating complaints of sexual abuse or harassment, ensuring the process is fair, transparent, and confidential.
- **Maintain Records:** Keep detailed records of all complaints, investigations, and actions taken, ensuring they are securely stored and handled according to legal guidelines.

#### **4. Support and Counseling**

- **Provide Emotional Support:** Offer counseling and emotional support to the victim and their family to help them cope with the emotional and psychological effects of the incident.
- **Collaborate with External Agencies:** Work with external professionals, such as counselors, social workers, or legal experts, to ensure comprehensive support for the child.

#### 5. **Liaison with Authorities**

- **Coordinate with Law Enforcement:** If the situation involves criminal activity, the committee is responsible for informing law enforcement agencies as per the legal requirements of the POCSO Act.
- **Collaborate with Child Welfare Committees:** Cooperate with child welfare authorities to ensure the victim's protection and that the case is followed up appropriately.

#### 6. **Monitoring and Compliance**

- **Ensure POCSO Compliance:** The committee ensures that the school is compliant with the provisions of the POCSO Act, including the creation of a child-friendly environment and child protection policies.
- **Regular Review of Policies:** Regularly review and update the school's policies and practices related to child protection to align with the latest legal requirements and best practices.

#### 7. **Prevention Programs**

- **Implement Preventive Measures:** The committee is responsible for developing and implementing preventive measures to protect children from sexual offenses. This includes supervision, proper staff training, and security measures within the school.
- **Promote Safe Practices:** Develop guidelines and conduct programs for both students and staff on personal safety, including the appropriate use of technology and online safety.

#### 8. **Disciplinary Action**

- **Recommend Disciplinary Actions:** Based on the outcome of investigations, the committee may recommend disciplinary actions against any staff member, student, or other individuals involved in misconduct.
- **Follow Legal Procedures:** Ensure that any disciplinary action taken adheres to the procedures outlined in the POCSO Act and does not violate the rights of the child or the accused.

#### 9. **Collaboration with Parents and Community**

- **Engage Parents:** The committee should encourage parental involvement in raising awareness about child safety and ensuring the protection of children both at school and outside.
- **Community Outreach:** Collaborate with local organizations, NGOs, and community leaders to strengthen the protective environment around children.

By fulfilling these roles and responsibilities, the POCSO Committee at **Krishna Public School, Raipur** ensures that children are provided with a safe and supportive environment, where their rights are protected, and any incidents of abuse are effectively addressed and prevented.