



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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1.

INTRODUCTION

Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Naruvamood is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of children. Thus, CVN has adopted this Child Protection Policy (CPP) requiring institution representatives to conduct themselves appropriately with the children to ensure the safety in the campus.

1.1 This policy aims to define the behaviours and actions that constitute child abuse. Additionally, it will lay out the institutions expectations for behaviour, the scope of application of the policy and guidelines for reporting and redressal.

1.2 Child protection is a term that describes policies, standards, and practices that seek to protect children from harm- physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual or any other negligence. Harm can be caused by child supervisors, care workers, teachers and volunteers who are directly working with children. It may also include staff who may not be involved directly with childcare but working in the institution and visitors, outsiders who come in contact with children.

1.3 The main purpose of the policy is to protect children from all forms of harm and create an enabling environment. It is also a tool to enhance the commitment of the institution to provide a child friendly environment through sensitizing persons associated and enforcing the policy. It is expected that the policy will also work as a tool to protect child and the institution from risks

associated with being in contact with persons. Therefore, this policy is meant for all staff members and others who work with or for the children. The above people are expected to show commitment to the policy and follow the guidelines and procedures of the child protection policy in their involvement with CVN.

1.4 The broad objective of the policy is to set minimum standards and procedures on child protection that seek to ensure that the school has to maintain a safe environment for children. Specifically the policy seeks to protect children from abuse and exploitation by encouraging good practice among staff members and preventing behaviour that may be abusive to children .

2.General Definitions of Child Abuse

CVN Staff and fellows must be aware of the following types of abuse and understand that they are prohibited as per this policy.

- **2.1. 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.**
- **2.2. 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.**
- **2.3. 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.**
- **2.4. Exploitation: Commercial or other exploitation of a child refers to use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others.**

These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, or spiritual, moral or social-emotional development.

- **2.5. Sexual abuse:**
 - **2.5.1. 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 like rape , 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 etc**
 - **2.5.2. An abetment of and an attempt to commit a sexual offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 are also considered to be offences. Certain offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 are considered to be aggravated offences and are subject to stringent punishments. For instance, sexual assault committed by persons in a position of trust or authority in relation to the Child (including relatives of the Child, persons managing or working in an educational institution, police officers or public servants) are considered to be aggravated offences.**

3.Expected Behaviour and Actions

1.Treat every Child with empathy and respect, regardless of his/her race, colour, gender, sexuality, language, religion, religious belief, heritage, political/other opinion, national/ethnic/social origin or property/disability/birth/other status.

2.Listen to Children and respect their views.

3.Ensure that physical contact with a Child is respectful, culturally appropriate and essential to the purpose of your interaction with the Child.

4.Establish an atmosphere that fosters the development of Children through your actions and words.

5.Always take permission from Children before taking their photos or videos.

6.Keep all personal information about Children or their parents/guardians confidential and secure and ensure that such information is dispensed to only those individuals who are legitimately entitled to it.

4. Prohibited Behaviour and Actions

1. Do not use language or behaviour towards Children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning, intimidating, offensive, discriminatory or culturally insensitive.

2. Do not place a Child at risk of harm or abuse and do not harm or abuse any Child physically, emotionally or sexually.

3. Do not share with or show Children (electronically or in any other form) inappropriate content including pornographic material or material encouraging crime.

4. Do not develop, induce or support physical or sexual relationships with Children, in any way, i.e., violence, terrorism, racism, sexism, self-harm, suicide, cruelty and gambling.

5. Do not use or encourage the use of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes or other intoxicating substances while interacting with Children and from providing such intoxicating substances to Children.

6. Do not develop any form of relationship or arrangement (financial or otherwise) with Children which could in any way be deemed to be exploitative or abusive.

5. Behaviour Protocols for Children

- **Respect all staff, teachers, parents and outsiders.**
- **All relevant information should always be given to the concerned staff.**
- **Share information and learning with other children.**
- **Never threaten a child.**
- **Never use abusive language.**
- **Never tease/mock a child or call out nicknames.**
- **Never rag a child.**
- **Never physically assault or sexually abuse another child.**
- **Never spread rumours about another child, or details about the child which could be socially humiliating.**
- **Never discriminate on the basis of race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion, sexuality, or any other basis**
- **Never force another child to give away his/her personal belongings.**
- **Report all concerns regarding actual or potential child abuse, mistreatment or any other violation according to the complaint/reporting and responding system.**

6. COMPLAINT and REDRESSAL MECHANISM

6.1 DECISIONS

The Principal shall be responsible for management of Child Protection Policy . All CVN members have a responsibility to pass on any concerns immediately to the Principal. All the information and evidences relating to concerns of abuse will be kept securely and confidentially. It is the responsibility of every member of CVN to identify and report concerns about abuse, or suspected abuse, and to take part in, as required, the process of investigation.

Any child protection concerns regarding a CVN member should be communicated to the Principal who shall cause an investigation into the matter. Disciplinary action shall be taken against the concern member if found guilty. Where the matter is of non-compounding in nature, it will be intimated to the police. While adjudicating the concern, CVN ensures that the best interest of the child is always the overriding concern.

All allegations and concerns of abuse must be taken seriously, irrespective of the identity of the alleged perpetrator and victims, and regardless of how 'unbelievable' the situation may seem. Will keep a record

6.2 Our Actions:

CVN undertakes the following actions for implementation of this Policy:

- ♣ It is binding on all members of CVN to sign up to and abide by the attached code of conduct.
- ♣ All members of CVN shall have access to a copy of the child protection policy.
- ♣ Induction procedure will include a briefing on child protection issues.

