



## **CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY POLICY**

YBIS has a zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to acting in children's best interests and keeping them safe from harm. The School is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintain a 'Child Safe Culture'. To support this, it has established the following child safety standards.

### **1. Purpose**

- To ensure all children feel safe, secured and supported at school.
- To ensure that all staff, volunteers, visitors to the school and parents understand the school's 'Child Protection and Safety Policy' and conduct appropriately with and towards children.
- To comply with all regulations of the government.
- To be responsible towards the needs of the community.
- To conduct themselves as a responsible resident in a public place.

### **2. Scope**

- Provide an environment where children feel safe secured valued and respected and will approach any school staff in difficulty.

### **3. Application**

- The policy is to be applied in conjunction with provisions in the child code of conduct and other relevant policies and procedures.

### **4. Child Abuse**

- Child abuse is a physical, sexual and / or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child.

#### **a. Types of Child Abuse**

- Physical Abuse – Physical abuse of a child is the inflicting of physical injury upon a child. It may include burning, hitting, punching, kicking, beating or otherwise harming the child.

- Sexual Abuse – Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is not developmentally prepared.
- Neglect and Negligent Treatment – Neglect is the failure to provide for the child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical, educational or emotional. It may also include abandonment.
- Emotional Abuse – Emotional abuse is verbal abuse, mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment.
- Exploitation – Commercial or other exploitation of child refers to the use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others.
- Conscriptio of Children – Conscriptio corrupts a child by making him engage in violent, destructive and anti-social behaviour such as killing and destruction of property thus making him unfit for normal social experience.

## **b. Child Sexual Abuse**

Child sexual abuse occur when a child is used for sexual gratification of an older adolescent or adults.

### **i. Risk factors for Child Sexual Abuse**

#### **Child Related**

- Weak child
- Sick child
- Handicapped child
- Emotional child

#### **Parent Related**

- Personal history of Physical or Sexual Abuse as a child
- Single Parent
- Emotional Immaturity
- Poor coping skills
- Low Self-Esteem
- Lack of social support
- Domestic Violence
- Lack of Parenting Skills
- History of depression or other Mental Health Problems

## **ii. Signs of Child Sexual Abuse**

- The Child Victim of abuse may show a cluster of Physical, Behavioural and Emotional changes listed below:

### **Physical Symptoms**

- Bite marks
- Unusual bruises
- Lacerations
- Burns
- High incidence of accidents or frequent injuries like swelling of face and extremities.
- Discolouration of skin
- Sleep, speech disorders
- Complaints of pain upon movement of contact
- Bed wetting
- Continuous loose motions and passing stools on bed
- Recurrent abdominal pain
- Constant throat and urinary infections

### **Behavioural Changes**

- Avoids physical contact with others
- Avoids certain adults
- Wears clothing to purposely conceal injury, i.e., long sleeves
- Gives inconsistent versions about occurrence of injuries, burns, etc.
- Often late or absent from school
- Comes early to school, seems reluctant to go home afterwards
- Not concentrating in school
- Compulsions, obsessions, problems, phobias, hysterical reactions
- Temper tantrums, aggressive over demanding behaviour
- Say negative statements about self
- Attempting to physically hurt oneself
- Constant rubbing of body parts against objects
- Sexual exploration and abuse of others
- Substance-Abuse
- Precocious sexual behaviour
- Emotional changes

- Apprehensive when other children cry
- Depression, anxiety
- Seems frightened by parents
- Has difficulty getting along with others
- Deep sense of isolation
- Little respect for others
- Overly compliant, shy passive withdrawn give in readily
- Plays aggressively, often hurting peers

## **5. Digital Safety**

- The internet provides children and young people access to a wide-range of content which are harmful.
- Children will be taught how to stay safe online, both in school and outside school. They will be taught to understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet and social media to groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Web filtering (Firewall) is active which includes preventing access to the following:

### *For staff and children*

- Sites that offer information about or promote or are sponsored by groups advocating anti- government beliefs or action.
- Sites that condone intolerance towards any individual or group.

### *For children*

- Sites of web communities that provide users with means for expression and interaction.
- Messaging and social media sites.

## **6. Extremism & Radicalisation**

Behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.

- Sharing messages of extremism using internet, including social media.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
  - Physical or verbal assault
  - Provocative behaviour
  - Damage to property
  - Derogatory name calling
  - Possession of prejudice-related materials
  - Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
  - Inappropriate forms of address
  - Refusal to co-operate
  - Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
  - Condoning or supporting violence towards others.

## **7. Staff Issues**

- Any complaints about staff behaviour may be made to the Principal. All those involved will be entitled to a fair hearing, both children and staff.
- Complaints which raise child protection issues will be taken seriously.

## **8. Child Protection Programme**

- Assembly Talk on Values and Virtues
- CBSE Komal "Komal" A film to create awareness on the issue on Child Sexual Abuse by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- Cyber Wellness Awareness Programme
- Singapore Police Force(SPF) Police Talk
- CBSE Adolescence Education Programme - an intervention to impart knowledge about the process of growing up with a focus on reproductive and sexual health, emotional health and coping with life skills.

## **9. Responsibilities**

The School ensures that appropriate resources are made available to allow the School's Child Protection and Safety Policy to be effectively implemented.

- **Principal**

- The Principal is responsible, and will be accountable for, taking all practical measures to ensure that this Child Protection and Safety Policy and the School's Child Protection Program are implemented effectively.

- **Staff**

All Staff are oriented about Child safety and Protection and should be able to:

- Identify when children are at risk
- Take thorough and effective preventive action
- Respond in the most appropriate way to children who are suspected of being abused
- Report their concerns appropriately
- Recognise their responsibilities about suspected poor practice or possible abuse
- To educate the child more responsible towards the need of the community.
- Create awareness among children to remain safe and alert at all time and how to respond in public, take care of themselves and others safety in family and community.

## **10. Reporting a Concern**

- At any time, the child can approach any staff who will take immediate necessary action. If required, it may be escalated to the next level.
- Any time in public, the child is encouraged to approach the parents/police who help them resolve issues.