



WHERE EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS
MY MYANMAR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

www.mymyanmarschool.com

Child Protection Policy - MMIS

Child Protection Policy is a set of pre-established protocol/s that will be followed by the school to protect the rights of a child from any harm or from any risk of it. The child protection policy is a strong reflection of the school's commitment to protect its children.

Aim:

- ❖ The Child Protection Policy of MMIS is a statement that defines the school's commitment to safeguard children from harm and abuse. It specifies the staff and others' responsibilities and roles in the protection of children.
- ❖ To assist the designated staff members with clear directions/instructions to ensure the issue at hand is dealt with professionally and is supportive of the child's needs. To ensure that the child in question is given a patient and understanding ear.
- ❖ The Child Protection Policy aims to ensure an appropriate, efficient, and measured response to any form of abuse of any degree that compromises or seeks to compromise the wellbeing of a child. It is implemented through every aspect of the school administration and management.

Physical Abuse

This involves any form of physical force intentionally applied as a threat or as a disciplinary measure. Corporal punishment involves hitting ('smacking', 'slapping', 'spanking') children, with the hand or with an implement – whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, etc. It can also involve kicking, shaking, or throwing children, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing ears, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions, burning, scalding or forced ingestion. Physical abuse is relative to all forms of bullying and intimidation as well.

Psychological/ Emotional Abuse/Neglect

Psychological/Emotional Child abuse is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. It includes name calling, insulting, threatening violence (even without carrying out threats), and discriminatory behavior, withholding love and support, and willful neglect among others.

Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation. Sexual abuse refers to the participation of a child in a sexual act aimed toward the physical gratification or the financial profit of the person committing the act. It includes asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual acts, inappropriate touching/exposure, etc.

Teaching Our Young Children to Identify Good touch and Bad Touch

Teach the child about 3 different types of touch: good touch, bad touch, and sexual abuse touch.

"Good touches" are those touches that make us feel happy, safe, and loved. Good touches can make us feel warm inside or can make us feel like a smile. Emphasize that most of the touch we get is a good touch, also explaining to them the importance of it. "Bad touches" are those touches that hurt us like kicking, hitting, and biting. "Sexual abuse touch" is defined as "forced or tricked touch of private body parts." The key words are forced and tricked. A force is when someone makes you do something you don't want to do or don't understand. A trick is when someone lies to you, fools you, pretends or calls something a game, that really isn't a game, so that they can touch your private parts or have you touch theirs. Explain that sexual abuse is confusing because it doesn't necessarily hurt; the touch may feel good too, and that is confusing to children.

- ❖ Use the words "sexual abuse" to eliminate unnecessary confusion. The effort to call sexual abuse by another name (such as inappropriate touch) may become counterproductive – leading more confusion for children. After all, we can be assured that the sexual abuse offender will not call what he/she is doing as sexual abuse. By giving the child the correct language, you give them the power to discriminate between what is right and what is wrong.
- ❖ Teach the child that they have the right to trust their own feelings and to ask questions when they feel uncomfortable or confused by someone's behavior. Talk about times when they may have had an anxious feeling (forgetting homework, losing something, frightened by a loud noise, etc.). Discuss the importance of paying attention to our feelings in situations when we are feeling uncomfortable.
- ❖ Teach the child to say "NO!" to sexual abuse. Teach them that they can say "NO!" to anyone who might want to sexually abuse them; even if the offender is an adult; even if the offender is someone they know.

- ❖ Teach the child that it is very important to tell a trusted adult if someone sexually abuses them or hurts them in any way. Teach them that they can tell another person if they are not believed. Discuss and identify trusted adults in their life.
- ❖ Teach the child that if sexual abuse happens to a child, it is NEVER the child's fault. Older children may come up with ways in which it could be the child's fault; explain to them that sexual abuse is against the law and children are not responsible when someone breaks the law and sexually abuses them.
- ❖ Teach the child that a person who sexually abuses a child can be anyone. Most children, and even adults, think that the offenders are usually strangers. Children need to know that they have the right to say "NO!" and tell even when the offender is someone they know, love, or even live with.
- ❖ Discuss with children that talking about sexual abuse can be very difficult, but that the abuse won't stop until they tell someone. An abused child doesn't start to feel better until they tell someone. Remind them that it's never too late to talk about sexual abuse.
- ❖ Children will have the freedom to contact the TIS Vigilant committee whenever they feel uncomfortable.

Direct Contact with Children

Those personnel who are with and in the physical presence of a child or children as part of their professional or school related work, be it regular, occasional, temporary, or long term.

Indirect Contact with Children

Those personnel whose work does not require them to be in the physical presence of a child but encompasses access to personal details and information, data on children including photographs, case files etc.

Monitoring and Identification of Children:

Close monitoring of academic performance and psychological behavior particularly in cases of sudden decline in performance, lack of interest, depression and aloofness will be noticed by the school to give proper counseling to the children.

Informal conversations with the students by way of discussions with peers and planned observations in hostels, classrooms and playground can also be helpful.

At MMIS, Proactive measures to implement POCSO - (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences)

Action Plan: MMIS Response

School conducts background checks for all staff members both teaching and non-teaching staff, contract employees.

All employees sign a copy of the terms and conditions related to child protection after they join the school. They must be provided with ID cards.

Clear boundaries need to be defined in interaction between staff and child.

Installed CCTVs in classrooms and in school premises and ensure that their feed is monitored.

We laid down policies and safe boundaries around photographing children. The photographs will be used by the school for educational purposes only in the school website, school youtube channel, school magazine or within the school premises after seeking an verbal acknowledgement from the parents.

- ❖ MMIS arranges for regular sessions on personal safety with all children (this includes talking about body parts, online safety, and protection from abuse).
- ❖ Orient all staff members on detecting the warning signs of sexual abuse among children.
- ❖ Engage in active dialogue with parents and help ensure that parents are aware of the issues faced by children.
- ❖ Ensure children leave school only with parents or authorized personnel.

School/Classroom Environment

School will ensure and promote a harmonious school/classroom environment and inclusiveness.

Provision for CCTV cameras

School has installed CCTV cameras within its premises at all strategic places.

Provision for guidance and counseling facilities in schools

Teachers in general attend an informal meeting session with the leadership team for an open floor discussion on adolescent (gender) related issues and conduct special activities that promote gender equality and sensitivity.

Programmes for empowerment of girls

Activities on sensitization of girls on health and sanitation issues, Fitness/ self-defense training of girl students will be conducted at regular intervals. Poster competitions, quiz, and debates also conducted to foster gender equality.

Constitution of School Complaints Committee

A Complaints committee consisting of the Principal and HOA is set up to serve as a complaints and redressal body. For any untoward incident/s the students will first report the case to their homeroom teacher. From here it goes to the Complaints Committee for further discussions.

In case parents wish to report any of the above-mentioned concerns, kindly write to mmisacademic@gmail.com. It will be viewed by the principal/HOA only and immediate actions as per the policy stated above will be taken with utmost care, by keeping the child's well-being and future in mind.