

## **Anti-Bullying policy**

GNDPS encourages a safe secure and positive environment where all the students grow and learn collectively without any distraction, pressure or misbehavior and GNDPS is strictly intolerant for any type of harassment, bullying, violence or aggression.

All the stakeholders including administrator, teachers, staff and students are expected to be co-operative in eradicating such behaviors which may be disturbing for one's mental or physical health each member of the community is expected to behave in a respectful and socially acceptable way.

Definition: Bullying can be defined as an act of aggressive physical or social behavior, intentionally and repeatedly meted out by an individual or a group towards another person(s) which causes harm or discomfort.

It often involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim, in which the victim is unable to stop it from happening. Bullying can be repetitive over time, and it can have immediate, medium, and long-term physical, mental, and psychological impacts on the bully and the bullied.

GNDPS recognizes and addresses physical as well as cyber bullying. Bullying is a persistent pattern of threatening, harassing, or aggressive behavior directed toward another person or persons who are perceived as smaller, weaker, or less powerful.

### **Bullying or harassment includes:**

\*Indecent gestures or written, verbal, graphic or physical abuse

\*Cyber bullying

\*Any act that is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress.

\* Directly or indirectly misleading/misguiding others through words or actions.

\*Any form of retaliation against individuals who report or cooperate in an investigation under this policy.

## **Objectives:**

1. To help the students who got bullied
2. To foster an environment where one can use or achieve his potential without any hesitation, pressure or fear.

This policy will make sure that no student will behave or act in such a way which may hinder other people's learning and development. A student him/herself will be liable for the consequences if he/she perform or participate in any such activity.

## **Reporting the problem:**

Any student from school can report if he/she experiences or witness any of above mentioned behavior/actions.

## **Where to report:**

One can report about this behavior/person through:

1. School contact number
2. School email id
3. Directly to school counselor
4. Directly to any teacher with whom he/she feels comfortable and safe
5. One can tell his or her parents his/her parents can talk to school authority/school teachers on behalf of his/her child.

## **Investigating the problem:**

When school receives written complaint regarding the above mentioned behavior/ action, anti-bullying committee established by the school will investigate the incident. Committee may contain several members including:

1. Principle
2. One person from administration
3. One member from PTA committee

4. School counselor
5. One or two school teachers

**Remedial actions:**

The consequences, if a student is found guilty in any of the above mentioned behavior, may range from positive behavior therapy and warning, financial penalties to suspension and expulsion from school. Counseling sessions will be provided to the victim student to re-enter him/her into the main stream.

All members of the community included teachers, students and visitors are encouraged to report any such behavior immediately

**LEGAL PROVISIONS PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RELATED TO BULLYING/ JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:**

India does not have a special law that specifically deals with the issue of bullying. However, certain aspects of bullying are punishable under various laws - depending on the consequences. Therefore schools and actions by the school administration play an important role in addressing Bullying.

**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012**

The Act prosecutes sexual crimes against children under the age of 18 years. Cases of bullying that involve ingredients of sexual harassment can be prosecuted under this act.

**THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015**

The Act consolidates the law relating to Child in Conflict with Law (CCL) and Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP). In extreme cases, where it is decided that a bully (CCL, in this case) requires to be reported, the procedure established under this Act will be followed through the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) (under Section 10 (1) of the JJ Act).

## **Reporting procedure under the Act**

Inquiry of the bully (CCL) will be done by the JJB under procedures listed in Chapter IV - Section 17(1) of the JJ Act. In case, the JJB, through inquiry finds that the bully (the CCL) is in need of care and protection, it will refer the case to the CWC with appropriate directions under Section 17 (2) of the Act. In case of the child is bullied - will be provided care and support through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) if produced at the CWC as CNCP.

## **Child Welfare Committee (CWC)**

The CWC is established by the State Government under the Juvenile Justice Act in each district to provide assistance to children who are in need of protection. Any person or children themselves can call at toll free number 1098 and can freely access the Child line services. Together with various government and non-government agencies rescue processes, counselling, medical treatment and rehabilitation are done so that the needs of the child can be fully addressed. If anyone sees any child being abused or bullied or any parents whose child is being bullied and do not know what to do and which authority to contact, then just reach out to POCSO e-Box of NCPCR or call on toll free number 1098.

## **REPORTING CASES OF CYBERBULLYING**

Cyber bullying in the context of children can involve aspects of cyber stalking, sexual harassment, violation of privacy, identity theft, hacking, or even circulation of child sexual abuse material.

**The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000** is the primary legal instrument that deals with prosecuting cybercrimes. This Act, when read with the Indian Penal Code addresses elements of cybercrimes while the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, addresses cyber sexual offences concerning minors. Child perpetrators are treated as 'Child in conflict with Law' under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

**Common legal provisions include the following:**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Penal Provisions</b>
Cyber Bullying	IPC Sec. 503, 506, 507
Cyber Stalking	IPC Sec. 354D, 509 POCSO Sec. 11 (iv)
Identity Theft	ITA Sec. 66C
Violation of privacy Hacking	ITA Sec. 66E, 72 POCSO Sec. 23 ITA Sec. 43, 66
Child Sexual Abuse Material	POCSO Sec 11 (v) & (vi), 13 – 15 ITA Sec. 66E, 67 IPC Sec. 292, 354A (1) (iii), 354C
Sexual Harassment	POCSO Sec. 11 IPC Sec.354A, 509B