

Child Protection Policy 2023 - 2024



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Approved By:

Mr Graham A Howell - Principal

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

PMBS fully recognizes the protection and safety of all students and support them for that cause. The school attempts to create an environment in which students feel secure and valued and in which they are listened to and taken seriously. The school provides a caring, supporting, and safe environment in which all students can learn and develop to their fullest potential. We want our students to have the confidence to know that they will receive support in the face of any threats to their safety or wellbeing

Aims of the Policy

To ensure that the welfare and safety of students are paramount and there is a climate of trust, PMBS is committed to

- Ensure effective communication between all stakeholders on child protection issues;
- Ensure that each child is known and recognised as an individual by everyone.
- Make explicit the school's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures so that child protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways that supports the needs of the child.
- Protect children from any kind of harm or abuse.
- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are heard.
- Provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm.
- Raise the awareness of both teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.
- Provide effective training and support for staff

Child Protection Team at PMBS

The Child Protection Team is headed by Principal assisted by Vice Principal and Heads. The team also has member representatives of all stakeholders associated with the school and students. The school also has student representatives from different grades to as part of child protection team.

Definitions:

Neglect - The persistent or severe maltreatment of a child which results in impairment of health or development. This implies the failure of parents to act properly in safe-guarding the health, safety and well-being of the child or young person.

Physical Abuse - Actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. These could be unexplained injuries/bruises; improbable or evasive excuses, untreated injuries; fear of treatment or medical help, fear of physical contact, fear of going home, over aggressive or defensive tendencies, fear of removing clothes etc.

Sexual Abuse - Actual or likely exploitation of a child by involvement in sexual activities without informed consent or understanding, or that violate social taboos or family roles.

Emotional Abuse - Actual or likely severe adverse effects on the emotional and behavioural development of a child by persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment, subjecting to inappropriate behaviour, or rejection.

Potential Abuse - Situations where children may not have been abused but where social and medical assessments indicate a high degree of risk that they might be abused in the future, including situations where another child in the household has been abused, or where there is a known abuser.

Bullying - any persistent and uninvited behaviour which insults, hurts or intimidates someone.

To provide care and a safe environment, PMBS is committed to

- Students and their well-being are our centre of concern.
- Promote self-confidence in children.
- The child is our philosophy and our centre of concerns.
- Modifying curriculum and providing avenues to openly discuss about emotions and feelings.
- Establish a good relationship with parents and other professionals working with children in our school
- Imparting Life Skills Education to empower children to solve their issues

Monitoring and Supervision

- The whole school premises including classrooms are equipped with closed circuit cameras.
- Staff members are assigned open areas and corridors for supervision to prevent bullying and unwanted incidents among the students.
- Any outside worker or individual allowed inside the school property will be accompanied by a staff member with prior information.

- Staff members will provide a written record of any incident of abuse or maltreatment using an Incident Report form.
- The school will maintain Incident Report form during the year.
- The school will ensure all records are kept securely and confidentially.

Parental Role

- Parents will be informed immediately in the event abuse is suspected.
- Parents will be required to cooperate with school authorities with regard to helping their ward.
- The school might seek professional advice before informing parents.

Staff Guidance for Good Practice

- All staff should be encouraged to model positive behaviour in order to promote good practice and reduce the likelihood of abuse and bullying.
- Staff should be aware of the following signs and should investigate if a student exhibits any of the following or any other unusual behaviour that may be a cause for concern:
 - Unwillingness to go to school
 - Becomes anxious, withdrawn, or lacks confidence
 - Begins to do poorly in school work
 - Becomes aggressive, disruptive, or unreasonable
 - Exhibits a change in their usual routine
- Personal communication between teachers and parents without proper documentation is prohibited.
- All staff members will follow record and report incidents to the proper authorities in a professional and orderly manner.

Confidentiality

- Every measure shall be taken to ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Information should be dispersed on a need-to-know basis.
- All staff should ensure that student data or personal information shall not be given to any person outside the school and is considered confidential except for the individuals directly involved in the matter.