



RIDGE VALLEY SCHOOL
DLF PHASE – IV, GURUGRAM, HARYANA

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The objective of this policy is to help ensure a safe environment and to subsequently have systems in place to ensure that there is no abuse, neglect, and maltreatment of any child.

The school is **POSH** and **POCSO** compliant and has an active **Child Safety Committee** in place.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions in these policy guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- **“Act”** means the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (and subsequent amendments)
- **“Appropriate authority”** means the relevant state authority (such as, the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi)
- **“Best interest of the child”** means a decision taken to ensure the physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and moral development of a child to the maximum extent possible
- **“Child”** means any person below the age of 18 years
- **“Child abuse”** means any form of maltreatment inflicted on a child, which causes injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a child. This includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and negligent treatment, emotional abuse, and exploitation

- **“Child maltreatment”** means, and includes, any form of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual, or potential, harm to the child’s health, development, or dignity.
- **“Child sexual abuse”** means, and includes, penetrative sexual assault, aggravated penetrative sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual harassment, and use of a child for pornographic purposes, as defined in The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO), as amended from time to time.
- **“Every person”** means any person above the age of 18 years, who is in a position of responsibility, authority, and trust over a child.
- **“Expert”** means a person trained in mental health, medicine, child development, or other related discipline, who may be required to facilitate communication with a child whose ability to communicate has been affected by trauma, disability, or any other vulnerability.
- **“Health centre”** includes the precincts of a hospital and the precincts of any institution for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence; or of persons requiring medical attention or rehabilitation.
- **“Offences”** means any offence punishable under any law for the time being in force.
- **“Physical abuse”** means use of force and/or inflicting of physical injury upon a child; and includes burning, hitting, punching, kicking, beating, or otherwise harming a child.
- **“RTE”** means The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 as amended from time to time.
- **“School”** includes schools as defined in Section 2(n) of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009
- **“Person familiar with the manner of communication of the child”** means a parent or family member of a child, or a member of his/her shared household, or any person in whom the child reposes trust and confidence, who is familiar with that child’s unique manner of

communication, and whose presence may be required for — or be conducive to — more effective communication with the child.

The following principles shall be fundamental to the application, interpretation, and implementation of these guidelines:

- **Best Interest of the Child:** In all actions, processes, and decisions taken to prevent Child Sexual Abuse, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration.
- **Safety:** The school will not resort to restrictive and coercive measures and processes for ensuring safety of children.
- **Non-stigmatising Decisions and Actions:** All initiatives will strive to reduce the stigma and taboo around child abuse and sexual-abuse-related issues; and the language used will be child friendly and inclusive.
- **Empowering Children:** School will promote children's participation in peer-to-peer sharing and learning in all settings; and children shall be assisted by all possible means to be able to effectively participate in such exercises. Any disability, which might prevent a child from his/ her participation in such sharing and expressions, shall be specifically addressed. Children will be recognised as rights-bearing individuals, guaranteeing them — as appropriate to their evolving capacity — the right to make decisions and participate in society. These decisions can include those involving their own protection; and every effort should be made to ensure that children are able to exercise their right to be heard and to participate.
- **Family Responsibility:** School will take all precautions to ensure that the family environment is safe, comfortable, and peaceful; and parents fully comprehend and have the necessary tools, ability, and resources to keep their children safe.
- **Zero Tolerance:** There will be zero tolerance to child abuse.