



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

DIVINE SAVIOR ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL

**Salvatorian Sisters,
Jordan Sadan- Saviour Nagar,
Gajapathinagaram P.O
Vizianagaram- 535270
Andhra Pradesh, India.**

The Divine Saviour School is the one of the first of its kind to introduce a Child Friendly environment. The Divine Savior English Medium School which aims at the holistic development of students: providing quality education and a future with creativity and values that foster Life takes every possible means to provide all the students necessary academic excellence and the Safest Child friendly environment. At the Divine Savior English Medium School every Child is unique, and we treat them with respect and Love. Every child is the most precious gift of God who are entrusted to our care to be moulded into bright minds that shape the society.

We at the Divine Savior English Medium School take utmost care that they are well protected and are provided the safe and positive place to move, interact, learn, play, build healthy friendships and bring forth the creativity that is hidden in each one.

DIVINE SAVIOR ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO THE WELFARE AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN, WE AIM TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN FEEL SAFE, HAPPY, AND EMPOWERED. WE SUPPORT AND RESPECT ALL CHILDREN. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY PARTICIPATION OF ALL CHILDREN. DIVINE SAVIOR ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND IDENTIFYING RISK (IF THEY ARE ANY) EARLY AND REMOVING AND REDUCING THESE RISKS.

Divine Savior English Medium School_ A Child Protection/safeguarding policy

Aligned with: The POCSO Act, 2012, The Indian Penal Code, 1860, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and The Information Technology Act, 2000.

1. Introduction and Commitment

The Divine Savior English Medium School is unequivocally committed to providing a safe, secure, and nurturing environment where all children are respected and protected from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, both physical and psychological. This policy applies to all staff (teaching and non-teaching), volunteers, contractors, students, and parents.

POLICY

- To oversee the maintenance of the Child safe environment within the school and its campus and swift action against the persons who violate this, Divine Savior English

medium School has designated a Child Safeguarding officer (CSO) for implementing the Safeguarding and Child protection policy, managing reports, coordinating with law enforcement (Police/Child Welfare Committee/Juvenile Justice Board), and overseeing staff training.

- Safe Touch Policy (In line with POCSO Act, 2012); Physical contact should be restricted to brief, necessary, and developmentally appropriate actions (e.g., comforting an upset child, helping a child in distress, medical first-aid).
 - ◆ Be non-abusive, with no intention to cause pain or injury
 - ◆ Be in the best interests of the student
 - ◆ Have a clear education purpose
 - ◆ Take account of gender issues and opposite sex touch, especially with students in secondary and high school.
 - ◆ Only be conducted in public, except for emergencies
 - ◆ Use the appropriate physical touch only for teaching when instruct and support students during lessons, such as support in PE classes, instructions on how to use lab facilities, how to play musical instruments, how to hold a pen, etc.
 - ◆ Appropriate touch is permitted when used to protect and support students in danger or in emergencies. To prevent students from hurting himself/herself or hurting others, To prevent students from damaging school assets and facilities.
 - ◆ Appropriate touch is permitted when used for mental support. To encourage and support students' emotions, e.g. when they are upset. To praise, e.g. to give a gentle pat on the shoulder. This should only occur in public area and not in private."
 - ◆ Safe touch for mental support could include; shaking or holding hands, a high five, to give a gentle pat on the shoulder/back when students need mental support. These safe touches are aimed at encouraging students and helping them to overcome negative feelings such as anger and lack of self control, and to praise students where necessary.
 - ◆ Safe touch permits the school medical staff when taking care of students with signs of illnesses in the school's health center supervised by camera or on the spot in cases where students experience severe injuries, with the aim to ensure students' safety.
 - ◆ **For personal support:** To support students with basic personal tasks where necessary such as changing soiled clothing, cleaning hands, personal hygiene, etc. (for primary students).
 - ◆ To deal with students' minor injuries (e.g. remove a splinter from a finger)
 - ◆ **For physical support:** To assist students with disabilities (students in wheelchairs or walking with crutches, etc. When moving to classes or participating in school activities or games where physical contact is part of the activity, e.g. holding hands, hands on shoulders, etc.
 - ◆ **Avoidance of Secrecy:** All physical contact must be in public view, never in isolated or concealed locations.

- **Forbidden Contact:** Any physical contact that is sexual in nature, exploitative, threatening, or intended to punish, humiliate, or control a child is strictly prohibited and constitutes an offense under the POCSO Act and IPC.
- **Anti-Bullying Policy:** (Bullying is defined as repeated, aggressive behavior intended to cause distress, fear, or harm, and includes physical, verbal, social/relational, and psychological forms.)
- **Zero-Tolerance:** The school maintains a zero-tolerance policy. Disciplinary action will be taken swiftly. Staff must intervene immediately in any observed bullying incident and report it using the defined reporting mechanism.
- **Cyber Bullying Policy (In line with IT Act, 2000).** This covers all forms of bullying via electronic means, including social media, instant messaging, emails, and phone calls, whether conducted on or off school premises, if it affects the school environment or a student's safety/reputation.
- **Reporting of Digital Evidence:** Staff and students must preserve digital evidence (screenshots, messages) of cyber bullying and immediately report it to the CSO.
- The use of school IT resources (computers, network) to transmit defamatory, obscene, or threatening material is prohibited and may lead to criminal action under the IT Act, 2000 (Sections 66, 67) and IPC.
- **Online Interaction:** Staff are prohibited from having personal, unsupervised, or non-academic related electronic communication with students, including communication through personal social media accounts. All essential communication must be conducted via official school platforms or in the presence of parents/guardians.

Reporting and Response Procedures

(The school adheres to the mandatory reporting requirements of the POCSO Act, 2012).

- **Immediate Reporting:** Any staff member, student, or parent who suspects or receives a disclosure of child abuse (sexual, physical, emotional, or neglect) must immediately report the matter to the Child Protection Officer (CSO).
- **Confidentiality:** The CSO will maintain confidentiality of the reporter's identity to the extent permitted by law.
- **No Investigation by Staff:** Staff members who receive a disclosure must not conduct their own investigation. They must listen, reassure the child, and pass the information directly to the CSO.
- **Mandatory Reporting (POCSO Act, Section 19):** The CSO must immediately inform the local police and/or the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) about any suspected or confirmed sexual offense. Failure to report a known offense is a punishable crime.

Disciplinary and Legal Action

- **Staff/Adult Perpetrator:** If an allegation involves an adult (staff, contractor, or volunteer), they will be immediately suspended pending police investigation. The school will cooperate fully with law enforcement as per the IPC and POCSO Act.
- **Student Perpetrator:** Disciplinary action will follow the school's code of conduct and be guided by the principles of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, focusing on rehabilitation and restorative justice where appropriate, while ensuring the victim's protection.

Training and Review

- **Mandatory Training:** All staff members must undergo compulsory training on this Child Safety Policy, the POCSO Act (including the definition of "child" and different forms of sexual offenses), and the reporting protocols annually.
- **Policy Review:** This policy will be reviewed and updated annually by the Safety Committee and the CSO to ensure continuous alignment with the latest legal requirements and best practices.

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the Divine Savior English Medium School's Child Safety and Protection Policy and agree to abide by all its provisions.

Name: _____

Role: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____