

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 9th July, 2024.

No.EDN.217/99/870: In order to fix the accountability of the School Management in the matter of Safety and Security of Children studying in Government, Government- aided and Private Schools and in exercise of the power under section 35 (2) of the RTE Act, 2009 and as per its mandate under Rule 93 of the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to notify the **Guidelines on School Safety and Security'** in the State, as appended to this notification.

Sd/-

(Vijay Kumar Mantri, IAS.)

Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Education Department.

Memo. No.EDN.217/99/870-A

Dated Shillong, the 9th July, 2024.

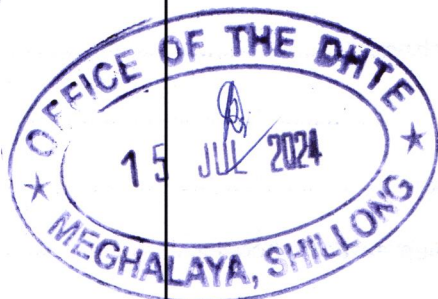
Copy for information to: -

1. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister in-charge Education Department, Govt. of Meghalaya for information of the Hon'ble Minister.
2. The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya for information of the Chief Secretary.
3. The P.A. to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Education Department for information of the Commissioner & Secretary.
4. The P.A. to the Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Education Department for information of the Secretary.
5. All Deputy Commissioners.
6. The Director of School Education & Literacy, Meghalaya, for information and necessary action.
7. The Director of Printing & Stationery for favour of publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.
8. Web Administrator, Directorate of Higher & Technical Education, Meghalaya, Shillong with a request to upload the notification in the website.

By Order etc.,

Subh

Special Officer to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Education Department



INDEX

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Page No. |
|---------|---|----------|
| I. | Abbreviation..... | 1 |
| II. | Executive Summary..... | 1 |
| | Chapter 1 Background..... | 1 |
| 1.1 | Order of the Apex Court | 1 |
| 1.2 | Fixing accountability | 1 |
| 1.3 | Three-pronged approach to safety and security of children in schools: | 1 |
| 1.4 | Operational Definitions | 1 |
| | Chapter 2 National and International Context..... | 1 |
| 2.1 | National Education Policy, 2020..... | 1 |
| 2.2 | Rights of Children, SDGs, International conventions | 1 |
| | Chapter 3 Constitutional Provisions and legal framework..... | 1 |
| 3.1 | Constitutional provisions | 1 |
| 3.2 | Central Legislation and Policies..... | 1 |
| 3.3 | State Specific Provisions | 2 |
| 3.4 | Categories of Negligence..... | 2 |
| 3.5 | Legal Provisions in case the offence has been established | 2 |
| 3.6 | Interpretations of Legal Provisions | 2 |
| | Chapter 4 Accountability Framework: Responsibility of School/School Management/Head of School | 2 |
| 4.1 | Accountability | 2 |
| 4.2 | Legal Provisions for government and government-aided schools | 2 |
| 4.3 | Legal provisions w.r.t private schools | 2 |
| 4.4 | Ensuring compliance by private/unaided elementary schools | 2 |
| 4.5 | Ensuring compliance by government/government aided elementary schools | 2 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 4.6 Ensuring compliance by government/government aided/private schools of secondary/ senior secondary level | 28 |
| 4.7 Rationale for para 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 regarding fixing accountability | 21 |
| 4.8 Role of NCPCR and SCPCR | 30 |
| 4.9 Legal provisions w.r.t role of NCPCR and SCPCR | 30 |
| 4.10 Responsibilities of School/School Management in the accountability framework..... | 30 |
| 4.11 Responsibility of the State/UT government: SSSA | 30 |
| Chapter 5 Whole School Safety Approach..... | 34 |
| 5.1 Whole School Safety: Concept..... | 31 |
| 5.2 Why the Whole School Safety Approach?..... | 31 |
| 5.3 Whole School Safety: Scope..... | 31 |
| 5.4 Implementation of Whole School Approach..... | 31 |
| 5.5 How will the Whole School Approach be implemented..... | 31 |
| 5.6 Infrastructure safety and signage | 31 |
| 5.7 Residential Schools..... | 38 |
| 5.8 Pre-School Centres (PSC)..... | 39 |
| 5.9 Psychosocial Safety..... | 39 |
| 5.10 Health and Physical Safety..... | 40 |
| 5.11 Cyber Safety..... | 40 |
| 5.12 Curriculum..... | 41 |
| 5.13 Teaching-Learning Process..... | 41 |
| 5.14 Assessment and Examination..... | 41 |
| 5.15 Parent-Teacher Interaction..... | 41 |
| 5.16 Parent-Staff Interactions..... | 41 |
| 5.17 Training of School Personnel..... | 41 |
| 5.18 School Preparedness for Disaster..... | 41 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 5.19 Other recommendations for schools to comply..... | 4 |
| 5.20 Developing Safe and Secure Schools: System Functionaries..... | 4 |
| 5.21 System Functionaries at State and District level: Disaster Management..... | 4 |
| 5.22 COVID-19..... | 4 |
| Chapter 6 Whole School Safety Approach: Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders..... | 4 |
| 6.1 Roles and responsibilities of School/School Management in Whole School Safety..... | 4 |
| 6.2 Roles and Responsibilities of Principals/School Heads..... | 4 |
| 6.3 Roles and responsibilities of Teachers | 5 |
| 6.4 Roles and responsibilities of the Parent..... | 5 |
| 6.5 Roles and responsibilities of Warden..... | 5 |
| 6.6 Roles and responsibilities of a counsellor..... | 5 |
| 6.7 Roles and responsibilities of students..... | 5 |
| 6.8 Roles and responsibilities of non-teaching staff..... | 5 |
| 6.9 Roles and responsibilities of School Nurse/ Health Workers/ Visiting Medical Personnel..... | 5 |
| Chapter 7 Developing a Safe and Secure Society (Multi-sectoral Approach | 5 |
| 7.1 Law and Justice..... | 5 |
| 7.2 Women and Child Development..... | 5 |
| 7.3 Electronics and Information Technology..... | 5 |
| 7.4 Health and Family Welfare | 5 |
| 7.5 Home Affairs | 5 |
| 7.6 Information and Broadcasting | 5 |
| 7.7 Panchayati Raj..... | 5 |
| 7.8 Urban Development..... | 5 |
| 7.9 Higher Education | 5 |
| Chapter 8 Implementation Plan | 5 |

I. ABBREVIATION

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| CBSE | Central Board of Secondary Education |
| COTPA | Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 |
| COVID-19 | Corona Virus Disease 2019 |
| CPCR | Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 |
| CPO | Child Protection Officer |
| CPR | Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation |
| CPTD | Child Parent Teacher Dialogue |
| CrPC | The Code of Criminal Procedure Act |
| CSA | Child Sexual Abuse |
| CTE | College of Teacher Education |
| CWSN | Children with Special Needs |
| DC | District Collector |
| DEO | District Education Officer |
| DIET | District Institute for Education and Training |
| DM | District Magistrate |
| DRISHTI | Disseminate, Roll-out, Intervene, Support, Hand-hold, Track and Incentivize |
| IASE | Institute of Advanced Studies in Education |
| ICPS | The Integrated Child Protection Scheme |
| ICSE | Indian School Certificate Examination |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IPC | Indian Penal Code |
| IT | Information Technology |
| KVS | Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan |
| MDM | Midday Meal |
| MoE | Ministry of Education |
| NCERT | National Council of Educational Research and Training |
| NCPCR | National Commission for Protection of Child Rights |
| NDMA | National Disaster Management Authority |
| NEP | National Education Policy |
| NPC | National Policy for Children |
| NVS | Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti |
| POCSO | The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Rules |
| POSH | Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act |
| PTA | Parent Teachers Association |
| PTM | Parent Teachers Meeting |
| PSC | Pre-School Centres |
| RTE | The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 |
| SCERT | State Council of Educational Research and Training |
| SCPCR | State Commission for Protection of Child Rights |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SJPU | Special Juvenile Police Unit |

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| SM | School Management |
| SMC | School Management Committee |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| SSC | School Safety Committee |
| SSSA | State School Standards Authority |
| UNCRC | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| USA | United States of America |
| UT | Union Territory |
| VAC | Violence against Children |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WSA | Whole School Approach |

II. Executive Summary

Aim/Purpose of this guideline:

The purpose of this guideline is:

- Firstly, to create an understanding among all stakeholders, including students and parents, on the need for co-creating a safe and secure school environment for the holistic development of children.
- Secondly, it is to make different stakeholders aware about the acts, policies, procedures and guidelines already available on different aspects of safety and security i.e., physical, socio-emotional, cognitive and specific to natural disasters as well.
- Thirdly, it is to empower different stakeholders and enable clarity on their role in the implementation of this guideline.
- Fourthly, it is to fix accountability for keeping children safe and secure in schools (including while children are transported to and from, to attend school or go back to their homes in a school transport) on School Management and Principals and Teachers in Private/Unaided Schools, and Head/in-charge Head of School, Teachers and education administration in case of government/government-aided schools.
- A key purpose is to emphasize the 'Zero Tolerance Policy' against any negligence on the part of any individual or management when it comes to the safety and security of children in schools.

An integrated approach to the guidelines:

This Guideline has been developed following an **'accountability framework'** with the help of existing legal provisions; **'whole school approach'** by integrating safety and security aspects in education itself, by including deliberations upon the health, physical, socio-emotional, psycho-social and cognitive aspects of school safety and security; and at the same time **'addressing multi-sectoral concerns'** to further create a safe society, giving recommendations for the other Ministries and Departments in addition to Education Department. Some areas that have been integrated are as follows:

- a. This guideline includes Laws and Acts applicable in the context of school safety and security at the state and national levels for creating awareness among various stakeholders to further strengthen the implementation of legal provisions in this area. With the first quarter of 21st Century witnessing a pandemic, COVID-19, that is giving a new challenge of social distancing and maintenance of health and hygiene protocols at schools, this guideline takes into cognizance the precautions to be followed for making schools safe and secure from the health point of view as well. Therefore, this guideline recommends all schools to follow Standard Operating Procedures/guidelines issued by this Department, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Health Ministry and also state-level administration from time-to-time on COVID-19 issue.
- b. In view of urgency for sensitization, orientation and capacity building of teachers, school heads, teacher educators, this guideline recommends state-level educational institutions to come forward to not only conduct special awareness and capacity building programmes for

school heads, teachers, parents, students and teacher educators but also to integrate pandemic challenges, concerns and actions into the other regular capacity building programmes. The national level capacity building programme for elementary school teachers, i.e., NISHTHA has already integrated a special module on education response to COVID-19.

- c. Further, as this pandemic has forced school education to reflect upon its mode of transaction/delivery of education, and a gradual shift of a percentage of teaching-learning towards on-line blended mode appears to be imminent, this guideline also emphasizes cybersecurity and safety for children and teachers.
- d. The guideline is also adequately linked to the guidelines provided by NDMA for compliance in physical infrastructure and disaster-related issues, and guidelines given by NCPCR for the compliance of safety issues related to residential schools and CBSE and other school boards for the accountability framework.
- e. The guidelines also include a comprehensive checklist of the essentialities of school safety and security and actions to be taken by the school in this regard.
- f. Finally, in the context of school safety and security, the guideline recognizes that Accountability is an obligation of the School Management, Principal, and Teacher to adhere to the Laws/norms/guidelines; accept responsibility towards providing safety conditions for children in school; account for their activities; to disclose the actions and impacts in a transparent manner; and most importantly to be held legally responsible in case of any negligence.

THESE GUIDELINES MUST BE READ ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed a Comprehensive Manual on Safety and Security of Children in School. The Manual available at www.ncpcr.gov.in is a compilation of various existing guidelines, circulars, notifications, Government Orders on safety and security related issues in schools issued from time to time.
- NCPCR's Guidelines for Hostels of Educational Institutions
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has also formulated and issued the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy, 2016.