

## THE POCSO ACT and POCSO Committee

The POCSO Act, also known as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, is a legal framework enacted by the Government of India in 2012. The act was established to provide legal protection to children from sexual offenses and to effectively address the issue of child sexual abuse in the country.

### Key features of the POCSO Act include:

1. **Broad Definition of Sexual Offenses:** The act defines various forms of sexual offenses against children, including but not limited to, child molestation, child pornography, sexual harassment, and penetrative sexual assault.
2. **Age of Consent:** The POCSO Act states that any sexual activity with a person below the age of 18 is considered an offense, regardless of the minor's consent.
3. **Child-Friendly Procedures:** The act emphasizes the use of child-friendly procedures during the investigation, recording of statements, and trial process to minimize trauma for child victims and ensure their safety.
4. **Mandatory Reporting:** The POCSO Act imposes a legal duty on individuals, including parents, teachers, medical professionals, and the general public, to report any suspicion or knowledge of child sexual abuse to the authorities.
5. **Special Courts:** The act establishes special courts to handle cases related to child sexual offenses. These courts are designed to provide speedy trials and are equipped with child-friendly infrastructure and trained personnel.
6. **Protection of Identity and Privacy:** The POCSO Act ensures the protection of the identity and privacy of child victims throughout the legal process, including during investigation, trial, and media reporting.
7. **Rehabilitation and Support:** The act emphasizes the importance of rehabilitation and support for child victims. It provides for the establishment of special care homes and other support services to aid the recovery and reintegration of survivors.
8. **Stringent Punishments:** The POCSO Act prescribes stringent punishments for offenders convicted of sexual offenses against children. It includes imprisonment, fines, and, in some cases, the death penalty for particularly heinous crimes.

The POCSO Act aims to create a protective environment for children and to address the societal problem of child sexual abuse. It places the welfare and safety of children as paramount and seeks to provide them with legal protection, support, and justice.

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## POCSO COMMITTEE: 2026-27

All children have as equal right to access education in an environment that is safe, protective and conducive to the overall development. The challenges of gender inequality, eve-teasing and sexual

abuse in school environment call for increased awareness and creating synergy among parents, teachers and school.

In order to ensure strict compliance of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Committee (POCSO) Act 2012, CBSE has taken several initiatives and actions for creating awareness about sexual exploitation among school children.

Meridian School Uppal has constituted a POCSO Committee to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. The school is committed to providing a secure, respectful, and child-friendly environment on campus. The committee will take appropriate and necessary action on any reported cases of misconduct or sexual offences within the school premises, in accordance with POCSO guidelines and child protection policies.

## **MERIDIAN SCHOOL**

### **POCSO COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

S. No.	Name of the Member	Official Position	Designation
1	Ms. Shailaja Reddy	Principal	Head of the Committee
2	Mr. Prasad	Vice Principal	Member
3	Ms. Madhuri Ugle	Training Head	Member
4	Ms. Kommidi Arundhathi	Admin Head	Member
5	Ms. Samantha Ephraim	School Nurse and Life Skills Trainer	Member
6	Ms. Sireesha Gudapati	Co-ordinator	Member
7	Mr. Kiran	Teacher	Member
8	Ms. Veda	School Counsellor	Member
9	Shubodeep Basu Ray	Student Representative	Member
10	Yashwitha	Student Representative	Member
11	Ms. Chakpani Prasuna	Parent Representative	Member