

MITCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BALEWADI

SESSION 2020-21

Anti- Sexual Harassment & POCSO Meeting

DATE & TIME	22.10.2020 (12.30 pm to 1.30pm)
VENUE	Online Session through Google meet platform
EVENT	Anti- Sexual Harassment & POCSO Meeting

On 22nd October, the staff of MITCON International School attended the Google meet session conducted by the principal Ms. Monika Chhabra

The POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 2012 is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

The Objective of the meeting was as follows:

- To deal with child abuse cases as educators not only in the School but in and around our locality as well.
- To develop a more child friendly system
- To confront the 4 prime sorts of abuses such as physical, sexual, neglect and emotional.

As the session continued, the principal elaborated that Education is a fundamental right similar to Human rights and what as educators can we do to safeguard our children against exploitation. Children are under the threat of getting abused at places such as buses, parks, malls, societies, etc. therefore as adults it is our responsibility to stay alert at all times. A case of sexual assault and child pornography which took place in the city of Coimbatore was also discussed.

Following steps can be incorporated to minimize these abuses around us as educators:

- Keeping a suggestion/ complaint box in every floor of the School premises.
- Having CCTV installed mandatorily.
- Engage in informal conversation with children so that they can open up to us.
- Having sessions conducted for children on Good touch/ Bad touch and also organizing events such as excursions, debates, recreational activities, etc. to boost their morale.
- Observe the child if he/she is showing signs of mistrust or is hesitant not only in School but also in our neighborhood.
- Observe if any child is exhibiting age inappropriate knowledge or aggressive behavior.
- Say no to corporal punishment.
- Try to make our classes more interesting as teachers. Also as an Art teacher, he/she can guess the emotional trauma a child is going through by the sketches the child makes and by the colour schemes he/she chooses.

The Principal concluded the session by expressing that how as educators it's our responsibility to guess issues and take initiatives for minimizing harassment in and around us. May it be the teaching staff or may it be the administrative staff, we should always be cautious and protect our children from perpetrators at all costs.