

# Advisory- Student's Safety in Schools

***From the moment your child is born, your instincts tell you to protect your children, there is no length you won't go to, to protect your child. So be alert, be aware & educated about the safety guidelines which schools must follow.***

The recent incident of a student's assault shook the country again and brought protesting parents out on the streets. Some of the most prominent cases of child abuse in recent years have taken place in schools.

Such an incident requires effective step from regulatory bodies and society as a whole to ensure that this never gets repeated. The effort should be made to ensure that child is safe not only in school but also in society and in homes. A caring environment needs to be created wherein learning and proper development of child takes place without any fear.

## GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTIONS

- Background checks must be conducted on all new hires to ensure they have no record of questionable behavior. Candidates who have criminal records of sexual and/or physical violence should not be recruited for any position within an institution.
- Schools should develop a standard teacher-training module that would train them to recognize suspicious behavior, create a safe environment for students, and be aware of legal recourses in cases of something happens.
- There should be a counsellor in every school who would be able to provide any intervention when needed. Confidentiality must also be maintained by these personnel.
- In addition to School Management Committees, schools must also have Child Abuse Monitoring Committee, which should have student's representation.
- Female guard, female support staff and teachers should be present in each bus until the last child is dropped off.
- Buses should wait until a caretaker comes to pick the child up when they are being dropped home.
- School managements should check the antecedents of bus drivers and conductors. In cases they hire buses from private operators, the latter should be directed to inform school about the staff being hired by him to ply school buses.
- The school must have adequate CCTV coverage. Cameras must cover all critical areas of the premises.
- Entry/exit of all persons in the school should be logged clearly with their in and out times specified.

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- Before recruitment of school staff, the schools must conduct Psychometric tests for all the staff in a detailed manner. Such personality tests provide meaningful analysis about behavioral traits of an individual.
- Parents or other visitors should not have free access across premises during school hours, and if their entry is necessitated, they must be accompanied so that their access is limited and monitored.
- Bus drivers and conductors, whether employed by the school or contracted out, their access must be limited to just the bus area, and specific instructions must be given to them on which areas are out of bounds for them.
- Support staff should not have access to student's washrooms.
- A safety audit of entire campus should be done regularly in consultation with Police, Education Department, Disaster Management Authority, Fire & Safety Department and Municipal Bodies.
- Children must be sensitized regularly on no-go/ dangerous areas and be encouraged to report to management if any person induces any student to go to secluded areas.
- Parents must be aware of the safety guidelines and must adhere to it.

### WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO

- Pay attention to any adult that might seem to be making your child feel or look "uncomfortable."
- Pay heed to any sudden behavioral changes.
- Make sure your children have your address, phone numbers & 'next of kin' numbers handy, and know how to ask for help if they are lost or alone.
- Talk to kids about good touch, and bad touch.
- Talk. Keep all channels of communication open. Let your child know that they should immediately come to you if anybody makes them feel uncomfortable or if they are not sure about something.  
(Source: DCPCR)

A safe & secured school is the right of every child. It is a place of learning where students, teachers and ancillary staff, work and learn without the fear or threat of violence. We understand the safety of kids is a sensitive subject and is of utmost importance to every parent and therefore, Securitas India proactively takes initiative to sensitize you on child's safety. In the year 2016-17 we have released series of safety tips for kids. Visit us on LinkedIn & Facebook to have access to these safety tips.