

Most Urgent

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Directorate of Higher Education,  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1

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Dated Shimla-1 the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

To

All the Principals/ Headmasters,  
Privately Managed Sr. Sec./ High Schools,  
Himachal Pradesh

**Subject:-** *Regarding Ensuring Preventive Mechanism for Keeping Students Safe within Schools Premises.*

*Memo,*

*As you are aware that in the recent past two incidents of gruesome crimes against children were reported in the National Capital Region on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017, a seven year old boy was found murdered inside a school in Gurugram. And the next day a five year old girl was also sexually abused in a school in East Delhi.*

*The onus of keeping students safe within schools premises would solely lie upon the school authorities. The children spend most of their time in school and the concern of parents about the safety of their children/ wards is increasing every other day. Therefore, it is a fundamental right of a child to engage and study in an environment where he /she feels safe and is free from any form of physical, emotional abuse or any other form of harassment.*

*In view of aforementioned position, you are directed to indispensably ensure the following in your Educational Institution to keep the students safe within the school premises:-*

- 1. The Committees for the redressal of grievances of students, parents, and staff, for complaints regarding Sexual Harassment and also under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offence) Act, 2012, should be constituted, immediately if the same has not been constituted yet. The details of these Committees along with contact details shall be displayed conspicuously and prominently on school notice boards for information of all the stakeholders.*

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2. The CCTV Cameras at all vulnerable areas inside the school premises may be installed in the school premises and ensure that they are in working condition at all times.
3. Provide training and development of staff to address their responsibilities amongst students to protect them from any form of abuse.
4. The Police verification and all other verification of teaching and all other non-teaching/ supporting staff employed in the school may be done very carefully and thoroughly. It may also be ensured that supporting staff may be employed only from authorized agencies.
5. The entry of outsiders' in the school premises may strictly be stopped.
6. The teachers and other school staff may initiate necessary steps for ensuring safety, security and best interest of students, device ways to take immediate remedial action in the matter immediately.
7. The Child help line No. 1098 and telephone number of local Police Station shall be displayed conspicuously and prominently on school notice boards for information of all stakeholders.

The aforementioned instructions may be adhered to strictly in letter and spirit and any laxity in this regard will be viewed seriously.

(Dr. B.L. Vinta),  
Director of Higher Education,  
Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. Even dated Shimla-1 the September, 2017

Copy for information and necessary action is forwarded to:-

1. The Principal Secretary (Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
2. The Branch Officer, Inspection Cell of this Directorate.
3. All the Deputy Directors of Higher Education in Himachal Pradesh, with the directions to ensure all of above.
4. The Superintendent (G-II), IT Cell, with the direction to upload the same on the Departmental website.
5. Guard file.

Director of Higher Education,  
Himachal Pradesh