

Child Abuse Prevention Policy for Parents and Students of Sikh Academy

In Compliance with FISA BC and the BC Independent Schools Act

Welcome Message

At Sikh Academy, the safety and well-being of every student is our top priority. We are committed to creating a nurturing environment where children feel safe and supported. This policy outlines how we protect students from abuse and neglect, what parents should know, and how children can seek help if needed.

For Parents: How Sikh Academy Ensures Your Child's Safety

What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Child abuse includes physical harm, emotional harm, sexual abuse, or neglect that threatens a child's well-being. Neglect occurs when a child's basic needs (such as food, clothing, and safety) are not met.

Our Commitment to Your Child

- Every staff member is trained annually to recognize and report signs of child abuse or neglect.
- Students are taught about personal safety and how to seek help in situations where they feel unsafe.
- We work closely with local agencies like the **Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)** and the police to protect children in danger.

When Should Parents Report?

If you suspect a child is being harmed or is in immediate danger:

1. Call **911** if the child is in immediate danger.
2. Report to the **Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)** at **1-800-663-9122** (available 24/7).

What Sikh Academy Does to Prevent and Address Abuse

School Officials Responsible for Child Safety

- **Principal (Appointed School Official - ASO):** Amrik Singh Phull (778-898-5052)

- **Alternate Appointed School Official (AASO):** Rupinderjit Kaur (604-512-3242)

These officials oversee all child protection concerns and coordinate with external agencies when needed.

Our Procedures

1. **Educating Students:**
 - a. Students learn about personal safety, healthy relationships, and their rights through our curriculum.
 - b. They are encouraged to speak to a trusted adult if they ever feel unsafe.
2. **Training Staff:**
 - a. Teachers, volunteers, and staff are trained to recognize and report signs of abuse or neglect.
3. **Handling Allegations:**
 - a. We follow strict procedures to investigate any concerns and work closely with child protection agencies.
4. **Supporting Families and Students:**
 - a. We provide guidance and resources to families when challenges arise.

For Students: Your Safety Comes First

What is Abuse?

Abuse is when someone hurts you or makes you feel unsafe. This can happen through:

- **Physical Harm:** Hitting, pushing, or other hurtful actions.
- **Emotional Harm:** Calling you names, making you feel bad about yourself, or making threats.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Touching in ways that make you uncomfortable or asking you to do things you don't want to do.
- **Neglect:** Not giving you enough food, clothes, or care.

How to Stay Safe

- **Talk to Someone You Trust:** This can be your parents, teachers, or the school principal.
- **Say No:** If someone tries to hurt you or makes you feel uncomfortable, it's okay to say no and leave.
- **Ask for Help:** If you're in danger or scared, ask an adult for help right away.

Who Can Help You at Sikh Academy?

- **Your Teachers:** They are here to listen and help.
- **Principal (Mr. Phull):** Call **778-898-5052** or visit the office.
- **Alternate School Official (Ms. Kaur):** Call **604-512-3242**.

You can also call the **Kids Help Phone** at **1-800-668-6868** if you want to talk to someone privately.

Important Numbers for Parents and Students

- **Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD):** **1-800-663-9122** (24/7)
- **Child Helpline:** **310-1234** (No area code required)
- **Local Police (Surrey RCMP):** **604-502-6500**
- **Emergency (Immediate Danger):** **911**

Frequently Asked Questions

For Parents

1. **What should I do if I suspect abuse?**
Call the MCFD or police immediately. Share what you know; it's okay if you don't have all the details.
2. **Will my identity be protected if I report abuse?**
Yes, your identity will be kept confidential during investigations.
3. **How does Sikh Academy handle reports?**
We act quickly and work with the MCFD and police to ensure the child's safety.

For Students

1. **What if I'm scared to talk about what's happening?**
That's okay. Start by talking to someone you trust. You won't get in trouble for asking for help.
2. **What happens if I tell someone?**
Adults will help you stay safe. They may talk to other adults, like the police or social workers, to make sure you're protected.

Additional Resources

- BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect (Service Providers)
- Kids Help Phone: **1-800-668-6868**

This policy reflects Sikh Academy's commitment to protecting children and supporting families in creating a safe and healthy community.