

SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMMITTEE

Members of Sexual Harassment Committee: The present members of the complaints committee to deal with the complaints of sexual harassment in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the supreme court of India relating to sexual harassment of women workers at work places and students are as follows:

Sexual Harassment Committee:

Sl.No	Members	Designation	Mob. No
1	Mrs. Sushma Gogia	Sr. PGT	8872700696
2	Mrs. Sheela	Sr. TGT	9463562001
3	Mrs. Anju Rishi	Sr. TGT	9417480574
4	Mrs. Sukhwinder	Sr. PRT	9417258293

Committee Against Sexual Harassment

With regard to the Supreme Court Judgment and guidelines issued in 1997 to provide for the effective enforcement of the basic human right of gender equality and guarantee against sexual harassment and abuse, more particularly against sexual harassment at work places, the CBSE has issued circulars to all the institutions, advising them to establish a permanent cell and a committee and to develop guidelines to combat sexual harassment, violence against women. It has further advised the institutions to be proactive by developing a conducive atmosphere in the campus, where the status of woman is respected and they are treated with.

Objective: The objectives of the Committee are:

- Prevent discrimination and sexual harassment against women, by promoting gender amity among students and employees;
- Deal with cases of discrimination and sexual harassment against women, in a time bound manner, aiming at ensuring support services to the victimized and termination of the harassment;
- Recommend appropriate punitive action against the guilty to the Principal.

Procedure for Approaching Committee: The Committee deals with issues relating to sexual harassment at the DAV Cent. Sr Sec. Public School. It is applicable to all students, staff and faculty. A complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment may be lodged by the victim or a third party. A written complaint may be addressed to the Convener of the Committee. If the complaint is made to any of the Committee members, they may forward it to the Convener of the Committee against Sexual Harassment. Here it should be noted that according to the Supreme Court guideline Sexual harassment can be defined as "unwelcome" sexually determined behaviour (whether directly or by implication) as:

- Physical contact and advances
- Demand or request for sexual favours
- Sexually coloured remarks
- Showing derogatory picture
- Other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

The following is also sexual harassment and is covered by the committee:

- Eve-teasing,
- Unsavoury remarks,
- Jokes causing or likely to cause awkwardness or embarrassment,
- Gender based insults or sexist remarks,
- Touching or brushing against any part of the body and the like,
- Displaying offensive or derogatory pictures, cartoons, pamphlets or sayings,
- Forcible physical touch or molestation and
- Physical confinement against one's will and any other act likely to violate one's privacy.

Procedure for dealing with complaints:

1. **Filing of a complaint:** If any associate believes that she/he has been subjected to sexual harassment, such person may file a complaint with any member of the committee. The committee member on receiving a complaint will intimate the committee convenor. The committee convenor would arrange for a meeting within a week of receipt of the complaint for discussing the complaint raised. Complaints must be brought within 30 working days of the incident of sexual harassment. Complaints brought after that time period will not be pursued except some extraordinary circumstances. The determination of whether the complaint was timely or whether extraordinary circumstances exist to extend the complaint period must be made in conjunction with the legal team. Every attempt will be made to get the complainant to provide the complaint in writing. The complaint shall include the circumstances giving rise to the complaint, the dates of the alleged occurrences and names of witnesses, if any. The complaint shall be signed by the complainant.

2. **Process of Enquiry:** • The committee will ask the complainant to prepare a detailed statement of incidents/ allegations. The statement of allegation will be shared with the accused

• The accused will be asked to prepare a response to the statement of allegations and submit to the committee within the given time.

• The statement and other evidence obtained in the inquiry process will be considered confidential.

• The committee will organize verbal hearings with the complainant and the accused.

• The committee will take testimonies of other relevant persons and review the evidence if necessary. The committee should ensure that sufficient care is taken to avoid any retaliation against the witnesses.

• During the enquiry process, the complainant and the accused would be expected to refrain from any form of threat, intimidation or influencing of witnesses.

• The committee will arrive at a decision after carefully and fairly reviewing the circumstances, evidences and relevant statements.

• The committee will ensure confidentiality during the inquiry process and will ensure that in the course of investigation a complaint:

- (i) Both parties will be given reasonable opportunity to be heard along with witnesses and to produce any other relevant documents.
- (ii) Upon completion of the investigation, both parties will be informed of the results of the investigation.