

SCHOOL REPORT ON POCSO ACT 2012 AWARENESS SESSION

As part of the ongoing Life Skills Education Sessions, a special awareness session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 was conducted for **Classes VI to VIII** students in February at The Air Force School, Subroto Park.

The session was led by the school counsellor, **Mrs. Anjela Dahiya**, to educate students about child safety, rights, and the legal framework for safeguarding children from abuse. The session began with the definition of a child under the POCSO Act, which states that any person below the age of 18 years is considered a child. This legal definition is crucial as it ensures protection and justice for minors facing abuse or exploitation. The Counselor sensitized students to the concept of child abuse, explaining that it involves physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect-related harm inflicted upon a child. She emphasized the importance of recognizing signs of abuse and understanding that abuse can occur in various forms, not just physical but also psychological and emotional. A significant part of the session was dedicated to defining and discussing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). The students were made aware that CSA includes any form of sexual activity with a child, inappropriate touch, exposure to explicit content, and grooming by offenders. The discussion was conducted in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner, ensuring that students could comprehend the severity of such offenses while feeling comfortable and safe.

She also provided an overview of the key features of the POCSO Act, 2012, highlighting its purpose in protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The salient features discussed included:- Gender-neutral protection for all children under 18 years, Strict punishment for perpetrators based on the severity of the crime, Mandatory reporting of sexual offenses, Special courts for speedy trials, Child-friendly procedures during reporting, investigation, and trial. Students were educated about the legal implications of offenses under POCSO Act 2012. The counsellor stressed the importance of speaking up against abuse. The session concluded with the video and an open discussion where students asked insightful questions, reflecting their understanding and concern about child safety. They were reassured that they are never alone and that help is always available. This informative session was a step forward in empowering students with knowledge, fostering awareness, and ensuring they grow up in a protective and supportive atmosphere.





