

# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a Child Protection Policy (CPP) is to ensure that all community members act consistently to preserve and promote the wellbeing of children. It is an institutional pledge to reject violence against children in all its forms through tailored guidelines and procedures. The implementation of the CPP includes the training of staff on the detection of child abuse and the allocation of representatives in the organization that will be able to follow the designed procedures. Sessions aimed to sensitize parents and children to child protection are also part of the implementation process.

Practically, the CPP will establish a framework and structure that will allow your institution to both prevent and deal with violence between children and between adults and children. The CPP will clarify the responsibilities of the different members of your community in instituting a safe and secure space for children. Detailed procedures outlining clear actions to take will be institutionalized and disseminated. The CPP will be developed in partnership with your institution based on himaya's work and on your own policies and structure in order to answer your needs and to be adapted to your setting.

### Points that will be addressed:

- Guidelines for maintaining a safe and secure space for children
- Responsibilities of staff, parents and children
- Creating a Child Protection Group (CPG)
- Choosing a Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO)
- Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse
- Referral procedures for cases of abuse

# STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING A CPP

## PREPARATION PHASE

**STEP 1:** Situation analysis and data collection

**STEP 2:** Drafting the policy

**STEP 3:** Policy discussed with different stakeholders

## IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

**STEP 4:** Implementation of the policy

Implementation requires:

1. Training staff (including a specific training for the DCPO and briefing to the CPG)
2. Giving awareness sessions to parents (when applicable)
3. Giving awareness sessions to children ages 6 and above (when applicable)

### **STEP 5:** Monitoring and Evaluation

Follow-up meetings will be set with the DCPO at a 1 month, 3 month and 6 months intervals to review progress, challenges and barriers. At the end of each year, the identified reports will be reviewed to inform implementation.

Any additional need (training, amendment to the policy) could be discussed at that point.

A survey will be created and administered to children, staff and parents similar to the one used in the needs assessment stage in order to evaluate effectiveness. It will be amended to target knowledge, opinions and CPP implementation. This can be administered at the middle and the end of the academic year.

Finally, himaya will remain in touch with the DCPO and will be available to consult with the child protection group (CPG) for support.

