Karnataka Issues Child-Safety Circular for All Schools

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15 November 2026: Amid rising concern over the safety of schoolchildren - especially girls - the Karnataka government has issued a circular with comprehensive child-safety directions for all schools in the state (government, aided and private). It mandates health check-ups for girls, sex education, CCTV coverage, complaint boxes and counsellors.

Key provisions of the circular

Health checks: Mandatory gynaecological check-ups for girl students in schools, and age-appropriate sex education as part of the curriculum.

Surveillance: CCTV cameras mandatory across school premises; monitoring of entry and exit.

Institutional mechanism: A Child Protection Committee in every school, meeting quarterly; complaint boxes and trained counsellors to be appointed.

Absence tracking: If a girl is absent for three consecutive days, the school must inform the gram panchayat and the 1098 child helpline - a check against child marriage and trafficking.

Legal awareness: Students, parents and teachers to be sensitised on the POCSO Act, 2012 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; negligence will invite legal action.

For the exam

The circular is an example of institutionalising child rights - it links the NCPCR (statutory body under the CPCR Act, 2005), the POCSO Act, 2012, Childline 1098 (the 24x7 helpline under the Ministry of Women and Child Development) and the state school-education department. Articles 21A, 24 and 39(e)-(f) of the Constitution form the basis of child protection.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: Consider the following about Karnataka's school child-safety circular (2026): 1. Schools must report a girl's three-day absence to the gram panchayat 2. Child Protection Committees meet at least once a year 3. CCTV cameras are mandatory in school premises. Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only(b) 2 and 3 only(c) 1 and 3 only(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer and explanation: (c) Statements 1 and 3 are correct; committees meet quarterly, not once a year.

Q2: The 24x7 child helpline number in India is:

(a) 1091(b) 1098(c) 112(d) 1078

Answer and explanation: (b) Childline 1098, run with the Childline India Foundation under the Ministry of Women and Child Development; 1091 is the women's helpline and 112 the integrated emergency number.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: Karnataka has issued child-safety directions for all schools - mandatory health check-ups, CCTV, Child Protection Committees, complaint boxes and absence tracking.

Question: What does Karnataka's school child-safety circular include?

Mandatory gynaecological check-ups for girls, age-appropriate sex education, CCTV, quarterly Child Protection Committees, complaint boxes, counsellors, and reporting of three-day absences to the panchayat and 1098.

Question: What is the POCSO Act?

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 - a special law protecting children under 18 from sexual abuse, with special courts and child-friendly procedures.

Question: What is the NCPCR?

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights - a statutory body under the CPCR Act, 2005 that monitors laws relating to child rights and safeguards child welfare.

Sources:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-mandates-gynaecological-check-ups-for-girls-sex-education-in-schools/article71698139.ece