Philippines’ Department of Education: Ending Corporal Punishment in Basic Education Schools

Child Protection Unit
Department of Education
Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City, Philippines
Child Protection Policy
(DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012)

Zero tolerance policy for any act of child abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, bullying, and other forms of abuse.
Child

- Below eighteen years of age;
- Over eighteen years but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination;
- Learners who may be eighteen years of age or older but are in school
Corporal Punishment

- **What kind of punishment:** Penalty for alleged or actual offense
- **Purpose:** Discipline, training, or control
- **Perpetrator:** Teacher, School Administrator, an adult, or another child who has been given or has assumed authority or responsibility for punishment or discipline

DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012
Corporal Punishment

- Blows;
- Striking child’s face or head;
- Pulling hair, twisting joints, cutting or piercing skin;
- Dragging, pushing, or throwing;
- Deprivation of a child’s basic needs as a form of punishment;
- Deliberate exposure to fire, ice, water, smoke, sunlight
- Forcing a child to swallow substances, dangerous chemicals
- Tying up a child
- Verbal abuse or assaults

DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012
Prevention

- Capacity Building activities for Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel
- Implementation of awareness raising activities
Acting on Corporal Punishment

● Punitive Measures
  ○ Administrative Liability
    ■ Suspension
    ■ Dismissal from service
    ■ This is without prejudice to the filing of criminal case in court

● Referral to the Local Social Welfare Development Office

DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012
Child Protection Unit

(DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2021)

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Minister, Basic, Higher and Technical Education, BARMM
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Elementary, and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) issues the enclosed policy on the Creation of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) under the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations, Pulauan Pambansa Secretariat, and DepEd Employees Associations Coordinating Office and the Child Rights in Education Desk (CREDe) under the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs in the Department.

2. Pursuant to the 1987 Constitution, the State shall protect and promote the right of all children to accessible and quality basic education. Alongside this right is the constitutional policy that the State shall promote and protect their holistic development through the promotion of their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being.
Structure of the Child Protection Unit

Central Office
Child Protection Unit

Regional Level
Education Support Services Division (ESSD)

Division Level
Schools Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)

School Level
Child Protection Committee

DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2021
Mandate of the Child Protection Unit

- Formulate policies on Child Protection
- Integrate Child Protection in the Basic Education Curriculum and Instruction
- Initiate and coordinate cooperation or partnership activities pertaining to child protection

DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2021
Child Protection Committees

- Composed of:
  - School Head or Administrator
  - Guidance Counsellor
  - Teacher Representative
  - Parent Representative
  - Student Representative
  - Community Representative

DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012
For more information about the Department of Education’s Child Protection Unit, you may send your queries at cpu@deped.gov.ph