





KERALA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

T.C. 14/2036, Vanross Junction, Kerala University P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 34

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No. 4296/01/LA1/2017/KeSCPCR.

Date: 10-05-2017.

From

The Registrar

To

1. **The Director of Public Instructions,**
Jagathy, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. **The Regional Officer,**
CBSE, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. **The Secretary,**
ICSE, P 35-36, Sector VI, Pushp Vihar,
Saket, New Delhi – 110 017.

Sir,

Sub:- Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights –
Practice of prescribing different School Uniforms – Reg.

Attention is invited to the subject cited. The Copy of Order in CRMP No. 4296/01/LA1/2017/KeSCPCR is forwarded herewith for necessary action and to furnish Action Taken Report within the time limit specified in the Order, since it is a statutory requirement under rule 45 of Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules, 2012.



Yours faithfully,

S.H. Jayakesan,
Registrar.



**KERALA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

(Present: Shoba Koshy, Chairperson)

Dated this the 9th day of May.2017

CRMP No. 4296/01/LA1/2017/KeSCPCR

Complainant : Suo motu

Respondent : 1) The Director of Public Instructions,
Thiruvananthapuram

2) The Regional Officer,
CBSE, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.

3) ICSE,
P 35-36, Sector VI, Pushp Vihar,
Saket, New Delhi – 110 017.

ORDER

1. Complaints and newspaper reports are being received regularly in the Commission about schools continuing to direct children to have more than one uniform, to be used on different days of the week, for different occasions etc, especially in CBSE, ICSE schools, thereby driving up the expenses that parents have to bear for the education of their children.
2. The issue of schools prescribing different uniforms for different days, or for different occasions, or frequently changing the uniforms, and the consequent increasing cost that the parents face, and the difficulties that parents and children face in maintaining different sets of uniforms, had been considered

by the Commission and orders issued in CRMP No. 2323/08/LA2/2015. It was ordered that there should be only one uniform per school and that the practice of having different uniforms on different days in some schools in the public sector should be stopped from the Academic year 2016-17 onwards. In the order in CRMP No. 5557/11/LA2/2015 dated 05-02-2016, the Commission had recommended that the first respondent shall issue guidelines that will ensure the quality of the uniform and transparency in purchase procedures and that no school uniform should be changed within a space of three years.

3. An Action Taken Report, received from the first respondent bearing No. H(1) 34085/2016/DPI dated 02-06-2016, in CRMP No. 5557/11/LA2/2015 showed that, while it was difficult to implement it in the previous academic year which was already underway, it would be implemented from the next academic year, viz., 2017-18. It is understood that action has been initiated by the first respondent to ensure the implementation of this order in all schools across the State in the new academic year.
4. Many of the complaints on the issue of different uniforms and frequent change of uniforms pertain to unaided schools, both following the State Syllabus as well as those following the CBSE/ICSE syllabus etc. Ideally, unaided schools following the State syllabus should also have guidelines in accordance with what the first respondent prescribes for Government/Aided Schools. It needs to be mentioned that, there are precedents of schools in the public sector like the Kendriya Vidhyalaya having a standard uniform for regular class and another (T-shirts and track pant), for the day when mass PT is held. That is understandable, but not the practice of having different uniforms on different days. This poses a severe challenge on the purse strings of parents who send children to unaided schools.
5. Till very recently, there were doubts about the extent to which schools following the CBSE/ICSE syllabus were bound to comply with the directions

of the first respondent on issues like uniforms, vacations and such other matters connected with the functioning of these schools in the State. This issue has been clarified (vide CBSE letter No. CBSE/AFF/Circular/10/2017 dated 19/04/2017) which clearly states that these schools are required to follow all orders of the first respondent, including in matters relating to working hours and working days (as well as holidays) which shall be as per stipulation for State Government Schools of the Kendriya Vidhyalaya. The same applies to schools following the ICSE syllabus too. In the matter of uniforms, the CBSE itself has issued a significant order very recently prohibiting, inter alia, the sale of uniforms in school premises, which was widely reported in the Press to create effective awareness of that directive.

6. It is seen that the guidelines issued by the first respondent DPI on 02-06-2016 cover such unaided schools too, but it needs to be enforced effectively. The purpose of a uniform is to ensure uniformity and discipline among all children attending a particular school, no matter what background the child hails from. It also gives a distinctive identity to the children of each school; even more it creates a sense of unity and pride. Therefore, the very idea of different uniforms (other than for sports) for different days defies the very logic for which different uniforms are selected by different schools; Uniforms must also be comfortable for the child to wear and therefore suitable to the climatic conditions in which the school is located. It should also be non distracting, and one which enables children to be free of undesirable attention while participating in physical activities or when travelling to and from home. The frequent change of uniforms or prescribing different uniforms for different days (other than for sports) does not appear to enhance the basic objectives for which uniforms are prescribed; at the same time, it enhances the financial burden of the parents.
7. Therefore, the Commission in exercise of the power under section 15 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005, issues this order with the following recommendations:

- (1) *The first respondent shall ensure the effective implementation of the directions contained in Circular No. V(3)/12285/16/DPI dated 28-05-2016 forwarded to the Commission vide letter No. H(1) 34085/2016/DPI dated 02-06-2016 in all Government/Aided/Unaided schools, including the one which prohibits schools from insisting on different uniforms for different days in a week as well as any change in the uniform for three years. The existing pattern followed in many schools of having a separate uniform for PT on a notified day of the week may, however, be retained as an exception to the above orders, and necessary instructions issued by the first respondent. The first respondent shall communicate copy of the instruction in this regard to the second and third respondents immediately.*
- (2) *The second and third respondents shall communicate the orders received from the first respondent on the issue of uniforms to all schools affiliated to them in the State of Kerala for strict compliance.*

The Respondents shall file an Action Taken Report within 30 days of the date of receipt of this order as prescribed under Rule 45 of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules 2012.



(Sd/-)
Shoba Koshy
(Chairperson)

By order

S.H. Jayakesan
Registrar