

Vaccination drive at Sri Sri Academy



Child safety has always been the first priority for all of us at Sri Sri Academy, Kolkata, and that is why we felt the need to take the best measures possible to safeguard our children by immunising them with the measles rubella vaccine.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as well as the education department of West Bengal, are working together on the measles rubella campaign to immunize all children between nine months to 15 years of age.

The government's initiative to reach out to all schools to ensure that all children in the above mentioned age group would be vaccinated is remarkable.

The main goal is to eliminate measles and rubella in the country by 2023.

Our school's teacher in-charge of child safety attended the workshop organised by the health & education departments on November 3, 2022. From then onwards careful preparations began to go all out to support the government's efforts in this campaign. Spreading awareness of the hazards of being infected by measles & rubella was carried out via the School website and parent whatsapp groups.

Information as well as reminders was circulated about the contraindications, precautionary measures and the side effects of the MR vaccine. A decision was arrived at to have the vaccination drive over a period of two days, January 21 and 28.



The very efficient team from the Kolkata Mayor's Clinic (KMC) and the entire Sri Sri Academy team worked out the plan in detail and geared up for students.

The SSA team planned out how to manage the crowd by allotting different time slots for students, groups were made class wise.

On the January 21, the little ones from Lower Nursery were happy to come to school with their parents, wait in the waiting area for registration. A token was given out to those who came for vaccination. Parents were very supportive and patient during the entire process.

Three vaccination rooms were set up for vaccinations along with three post vaccination waiting rooms. The vaccinators and their helpers were an experienced team who helped the students relax before vaccination, reassuring the parents with a smile. The parents were reminded of the contraindications as advised by the health department. Each student received a vac-

ination certificate.

Post vaccination waiting time was adhered to. Each child was requested to wait for half an hour with parents in the waiting rooms. We had made arrangements for students to watch age appropriate animated short movies and videos while waiting.

The admin team, school nurses, support staff and helpers ensured that each child was taken care of. It was such a joy to watch some of the children trying their best to keep smiling with tears in their eyes, some just went through it like a breeze. The whole team at times applauded when a crying student took the vaccination after a lot of coaxing.

The second day of the vaccination drive was on January 28, Saturday. On this day crowd management, registration and the actual process of vaccination went smoothly. There were three students who were not allowed to get vaccinated as they were mildly asthmatic and had allergies. Adolescent students were happy to meet and wait for their turn patiently as they could spend time with classmates. Those who had missed out the first day of vaccination due to fever, cold and cough were given an opportunity to get vaccinated. The parents cooperated with the school team.

We, at Sri Sri Academy, are proud that we did our very best to help in this government initiative of immunising our students and be a part of the process of eliminating measles and rubella from the country by the end of 2023.

