

## **POCSO WORKSHOP**

The workshop on POCSO held in Sanskriti School on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017 was conducted by Mrs. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, who was assisted by Mr. Dhani Ram, Senior Consultant (POCSO). They were welcomed by Ms. Deepa Khurana after which the presentation began.

Mrs. Kacker emphasized that child abuse is rampant in schools, homes, neighbourhoods and public places and India is the largest consumer and supplier of pornography. Keeping this in mind, the POCSO Act, 2012 was started which addresses all sexual offences below the age of 18. She discussed the important features of this Act like complete privacy and gender neutrality. She also stressed on the mandatory role of teachers in reporting any incident of child abuse. Teachers must recognize the symptoms of sexual abuse and know how to deal with it. It is the responsibility of the school and Management to be vigilant at all times.

Ms Kacker also put light on the processes under the POCSO Act like processes at the police station, processes at the Child Welfare Committee, processes for the medical examination of the child and processes at the Special Court.

This was followed by a Q & A round and ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Yashoda Pramod. The workshop was very informative and gave clarity to the audience on a number of points.