

The Child Fatality Review Panel (The Review Panel) has reviewed 238 child death cases involving children aged below 18 that occurred in 2010 and 2011, among which, 35 children died by suicide, 28 died in accidents and 12 died as a result of assault. The Review Panel has some observations to share with school personnel for preventing avoidable child death.

Preventing Suicide Among Children

- Students may be facing various stresses and difficulties. You may show understanding, express your concern and offer timely assistance to them. Where necessary, collaboration with the parents and other helping professionals will help students cope with the problems.
- Students need care and concern, especially those with special needs. You may always be sensitive and alert of possible bullying, including cyber-bullying, that may occur among students and intervene promptly or offer timely support/counselling to prevent the problems from getting worse.
- Students may be equipped with problem-solving skills for helping them build up more resilience to face life difficulties. You may teach them or assist them to acquire these skills.
- Students may use emotional outbursts, violent acts or messages and notes including electronic messages such as Whatsapp, Line and Facebook, etc. to express or hint their suicidal ideations. People with past suicidal attempts are at higher risk of committing suicide again. You may be more vigilant and provide extra care and assistance to them.

Preventing Accident

- Students may lack understanding of their own physique, the illness they suffer and the resulting limitations brought to them, as well as the potential risks of the sports/activities they participate. Through appropriate means, you may teach them on enhancing their self-awareness and understanding of their own physical strengths and limitations and whether they are adequately trained and prepared for the sports/activities they participate.
- Students should take precautionary measures before taking part in high-risk sports and activities such as swimming, cycling and using amusement facilities/rides, etc. You may teach students on assessing the environmental risks and remind them to beware of the safety.

Preventing Children from Being Assaulted

Students should have self-protection in risky situations such as when encountering people, including family members, with unstable emotions or with threatening/dangerous speech or behaviour, or suspicious persons. You may teach them to be more sensitive and vigilant to potential risks in various situations, remind them on ways of getting away from risks and threats, and seek help from trustworthy adults such as family members, relatives, teachers and other helping professionals.



兒童死亡可避免

Child Death is Avoidable

致學校人員
To School Personnel