

## **Children's Parliament**

Children's Parliament is a platform for children to come together to share their problems and systematically work together to solve these problems. This is an effort to ensure the participation of children in decision making and executing these decisions.

### **Objectives**

1. To make SCH children understand about democratic processes and systems
2. To enable close interaction between children and ensuring their participation in decision-making and problem solving.
3. To develop confidence, self esteem and responsibility among children.
4. To create an internal mechanism to coordinate activities and monitor the performance of each child.

### **The election procedure**

Children who want to contest the election to the post of Prime Minister submit their nominations to a teacher who acts the chief electoral officer. The names of the children will be displayed in the notice board for two days and they canvass to the children by talking about what they will do for them if he/she becomes the PM, during the assembly. After this, election is held and all the children exercise a secret ballot for any candidate. After the election, the votes are counted in the presence of all the children and one who gets the highest number of votes is declared as the PM and one who secures the second highest number of votes becomes the opposition leader.

The prime minister can then choose eight children as cabinet ministers and all the members of the house represented by each cabinet ministers become their committee members and all the members of the house represented by the opposition leader becomes the opposition members.

### **Procedure of parliament meeting**

Once in a week each committee under the cabinet ministers in charge of the committee will meet and discuss the problems and issues.

The prime minister holds the meeting of all the cabinet ministers once in two weeks and discusses all the issues and chalk out solutions.

The parliament of all the children is held once in a month (on every third Saturday) and discussions are held. The opposition can raise questions regarding serious issues.

The Parliament makes decisions on serious issues with the mandate of the opposition Minister and the Prime Minister then announces these decisions in the Parliament.

**Manoj Joseph**