



CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

Purpose

This policy outlines the board's commitment to child protection and recognises the important role and responsibility of all our staff in the protection of children. It includes the board's expectations when child abuse is reported or suspected by us.

All staff members are expected to be familiar with this policy, its associated procedures and protocols and abide by them.

The board of trustees has an obligation to ensure the wellbeing of children in our care so they thrive, belong and achieve. We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all children. The safety and wellbeing of the child is our top priority. Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.

In line with section 15 of the Children, Young Person and Their Families Act, any person in our school who believes that any child or young person has been, or is likely to be, harmed (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually) ill-treated, abused, neglected, or deprived must follow school procedures and may also report the matter to a social worker or the local police.

Guidelines

Although ultimate accountability sits with the board, the board delegates responsibility to the principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors, volunteers and parents. Therefore, the principal must:

1. Develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school
2. Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
3. Make this policy available on the school's internet site or available on request
4. Ensure that every contract, or funding arrangement, that the school enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required
5. Ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances
6. Recognise the rights of family/whanau to participate in the decision-making about their children
7. Ensure that all staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect, deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action in response
8. Support all staff to work in accordance with this procedure, to work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection policies are understood and implemented
9. Promote a culture where staff feel confident they can constructively challenge

- poor practice or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal
10. Consult, discuss and share relevant information, in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information sharing protocols, in a timely way regarding any concerns about an individual child with the designated person
 11. Seek advice as necessary from relevant agencies where child safety issues arise
 12. Make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy
 13. Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member

CONTACTS

IF YOU BELIEVE A CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL:	
POLICE	111

WORRIED A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON YOU KNOW COULD BE AT RISK OF HARM FROM ABUSE OR NEGLECT?	
ORANGA TAMARIKI	0508 FAMILY (0508 326 459)
MINISTRY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN https://www.mvcot.govt.nz/	<i>If you're a school:</i> 0508 EDASSIST (0508 332 774)

VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S HUB	0800 FOR OUR KIDS (0800 367 687)
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	0800 848 326
TRAUMA INTERVENTION TEAM	

- [Appendix 1: Child Safe Practice Guidelines](#)
- [Appendix 2: Definitions](#)
- [Appendix 3: Disclosure procedures](#)
- [Appendix 4: NZEI: Physical Contact With Children](#)
- [Appendix 5: Complaints against staff](#)

Related documentation and information

Ministry of Education

<https://education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/vulnerable-children-act-2014-requirements-for-schools-and-kura/>

SAFER ORGANISATIONS SAFER CHILDREN: Guidelines for child protection policies to build safer organisations

<https://www.mvcot.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Safer-Organisations-safer-children.pdf>