

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Rational

501

Students at Paparoa Primary School thrive and achieve to the best of their ability. The school Board and staff are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all children.

Purpose

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

Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.

In line with Section 15 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, 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 when reporting the matter to a social worker or the local police.

Delegations

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

Policy Guidelines

The principal must:

- develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school
- comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
- make this policy available on the school's internet site or available on request
- ensure that every contract or funding arrangement that the school enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required
- ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances
- recognise the rights of family/whānau to participate in the decision making about their children
- ensure that all staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect and deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action in response
- support all staff to work in accordance with this policy to work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection procedures are understood and implemented

- promote a culture where staff feel confident they can constructively challenge poor practice or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal
- consult, discuss and share relevant information with the board or designated person in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information-sharing protocols in a timely way regarding any concerns about an individual child
- seek advice as necessary from NZSTA advisers on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise
- make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy
- ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member.

Monitoring

The Principal will:

- Monitor changes in legislation that impact on this policy
- Update any and all procedures related to this policy
- Ensure staff are trained to meet the requirements of this policy

Teachers will:

- Be familiar with this policy and all associated procedures
- Report any concerns about neglect/abuse to the principal(Board Chair if about the Principal) in the first instance

Supporting Documentation

- Responding to Disclosures
- Outdoor Education
- Parents in the classroom
- Trips to school site
- Visitors to the school
- Social media and Technology (Internet Protection and Photo storage)
- Medication and sunscreen
- After School Care
- Reporting child abuse and neglect

Ratified by Board: _____

Signed for B.O.T.

Date

Next Review: _____

Date

Recorded in the Board of Trustees Minutes dated: _____