



TOKANUI School

RESPECT INTEGRITY COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

Child Protection Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all young people in our care have their needs met in a safe, physical and emotional environment. That we comply in full with current legislation to ensure the safety of students and employees. In considering the safety of children, Tokanui School will act upon indicators of abuse to ensure that appropriate agencies are involved with those in need of care and protection

Objectives:

1. The Board shows commitment to providing a safe physical and emotional environment for all students
2. In any case of suspected or actual child abuse or neglect, the Board will follow the Protocol between the Ministry of Education, the Schools Trustees Association and Ministry for Vulnerable Children - Oranga Tamariki.
3. The Board of Trustees will ensure that staff are provided with appropriate training to be aware of and recognise the indicators of abuse.
4. The Board of Trustees acknowledges that only Ministry for Vulnerable Children - Oranga Tamariki or the Police have the statutory authority to investigate allegations of abuse and that any member of staff is obliged to report suspected abuse to Ministry for Vulnerable Children - Oranga Tamariki or the Police. The Principal should be informed of any such action, if appropriate.
5. Any statutory requirements or obligations with regard to child safety will be complied with.
6. As an employer in the case of allegations against employees we will follow the Procedure Dealing with Child Abuse Allegations against Employees.
7. The Principal and Staff may require support if a disclosure is made to them. The Board of Trustees recognises a responsibility here to help its staff, as would any good employer.
8. Strict confidentiality will be observed
9. Staff are not to actively seek disclosures
10. Suitable safety programs and Self Esteem Units will be taught as part of the Health and Physical Well Being Curriculum to increase children's assertiveness skills in dealing with uncomfortable situations, and to help raise teachers consciousness of the issues.

Effectiveness Review:

The policy will be reviewed annually according to the Board's Annual Programme of Policy Reviews, or in line with changes in statutory requirements

Chairperson:

Date Reviewed: June 2021