

Child Protection Policy – Nag 5

Revised September 2022

Outcome Statement

Children have a fundamental right to care and protection. At Puhinui School tamariki have the right to a safe environment where they can thrive, belong and achieve to the best of their ability.

Response to Child Abuse

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/kura 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.

Delegations

Although ultimate accountability sits with the board, the board delegates to the principal responsibility for developing the appropriate child safety procedures at the school and that they ensure the relevant legislative requirements are complied with.

Expectations and limitations

The principal must:

- develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school
- At all times the respect and protection of a child is handled with extreme care and confidentiality. Appropriate information is shared within the application of the law and the privacy act.
- 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

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- 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.
- Ensure the safety checks are carried out

Procedures/supporting documentation

Definition

Child abuse: Includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as neglect which is the direct consequences of a deliberate act or omission by an adult and which has the potential or affect of serious harm to the child.

Child neglect: Failure or omission to care for a child. This can be physical, emotional, medical, educational and a lack of supervision.

Supporting Procedures

[Reporting child abuse](#) & flowchart

Parents collecting sick children

Attendance and truancy

Court orders

Staff code of conduct

Appointment process

Use of computer code of conduct

[Valid Identity verification documentation](#)

This policy is supported by and reflects The Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 and within the Education and Training Act 2020

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Supporting Documents

Safe organisations Safer children – Guidelines for child protection policies to build safer organisations

[Vulnerable Children Act 2014](#)

[Children's Act 2014](#)

[Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#)

[Health and Safety Reform Bill](#)

[Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989](#)

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)

[Child Matters](#) indicators of child abuse

Ratified by the Puhinui School

Date September 2022