

Child Protection

5.5

Rationale

This policy outlines the Board's commitment to child protection.

We have an obligation to ensure the wellbeing of children in our care and 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 when investigating suspected or alleged abuse. We support the roles of the New Zealand Police (the Police) and Child, Youth and Family in the investigation of suspected abuse and will report suspected/alleged abused to these agencies. We support families/whanau to protect their children. We provide a safe environment, free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse.

All staff are expected to be familiar with this policy and to abide by it.

Requirements

1. In cases of suspected or alleged child abuse or neglect, Waiuku College will follow the procedures detailed in "Breaking the Cycle: Interagency Protocols for Child Abuse Management" as provided by the New Zealand Children and Young Persons Services 1996 and follow the guidelines in the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 (VCA)
2. Procedures for notification of suspected, alleged or identified abuse are in place and communicated to all staff.
3. Information will be provided to staff on how to recognise possible cases of child abuse.
4. Procedures for dealing with allegations against employees are in place and communicated to all staff.
5. Vetting/screening of all support staff and volunteers will follow the Safer Children vetting guidelines.
6. Policy is available to the community on the school website.

Adopted by Board of Trustees: 17 May 2016