

BLOMFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL & RESOURCE CENTRE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE:

Blomfield School is committed to the wellbeing of our students. In accordance with the Children's Act 2014 we aim to help protect young people at risk of abuse and to ensure that staff are supported to identify and respond appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect.

PURPOSE:

- To provide clear guidelines to ensure staff can identify and respond appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect, and to understand their role in keeping children safe.
- All staff members are expected to be familiar with this policy and abide by these guidelines.
- The Children and Young Persons Family Act, 1989 defines child abuse as:

'The harming (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person.'

GUIDELINES:

- All staff are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the Blomfield School Code of Conduct.
- All staff are expected to behave in a manner that maintains appropriate professional boundaries and avoid behaviour that may be misinterpreted by others.
- All staff will be required to familiarise themselves fully with organisational policies about child abuse and be encouraged to read resource materials made available by agencies such as Oranga Tamariki.
- The designated person for Child Protection at Blomfield School is the Principal or the person deputising for the Principal.
- All concerns of potential, suspected or alleged abuse must be brought to the attention of the Principal. If the Principal is unavailable the concern should be brought to the attention of the person deputising for the Principal at the time.
- If a student makes a verbal disclosure to a member of staff it is important that the staff member takes what the student says seriously.
- Under no circumstances should a staff member attempt to conduct an investigation or deal with a concern regarding possible child abuse alone.
- If the incident is of an immediate and serious nature staff should intervene to protect the student and then report the incident.

- When we suspect that child abuse has occurred we will report the matter to the Police or to Oranga Tamariki.
- If we have reason to believe that the suspected child abuse has been perpetrated outside the family we will tell the parents before we consult or report, unless there is risk to the child in doing so. In no case will we regard ourselves as having to have their permission to consult or to report.
- Where we think the abuse may have been perpetrated by a family member or someone close to the family we will not inform the family of our decision to report or consult initially but ensure they are informed by the most appropriate person at the appropriate time.
- Giving information to protect children better is not a breach of confidentiality. Wherever possible the family/whanau should be kept informed on what information has been shared and with which agency and for what purpose. Principle 11 of the Privacy Act 1993 states *“disclosure of the information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious threat”*.
- The School Curriculum and culture will provide ongoing opportunities for staff to emphasise, to our all of students, their rights to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Sexuality Education occurs in the context of students’ Personalised Learning Plans (PLP) which deal holistically with each student’s wellbeing, in accordance with their development and their specific learning, social and emotional needs.
- Through the PLP process, parents and whanau are personally consulted about the students’ wellbeing and health priorities, inclusive of sexuality education where appropriate, at least annually. For specific Sexuality education programmes, for class or group delivery, parental permission is specifically sought.

Reviewed and adopted by the Board of Trustees

Dated: 19 September 2019