

Rationale:

Children and students have a fundamental right to have all their needs met and to be safe from abuse and neglect.

This school is committed to supporting children/students, their whanau/families, agencies, staff, employees and contractors to meet the aims of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014.

Purpose:

1. To provide a safe environment, free from physical, emotional, verbal, sexual or electronic abuse.
2. To recognise the role and responsibility of staff in the protection of children by identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect.
3. To appropriately respond to concerns about the wellbeing of a child.
4. To ensure that all agencies, staff, employee and contractors and funding arrangements fulfil the requirement of the Act.

Definition:

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

Guidelines:

1. The Principal will ensure that there are procedures in place to identify and respond to allegations of abuse.
2. The Principal and SLT work together with the Pastoral Care Team to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children by working with other agencies available to the school.
3. The Principal will ensure that school recruitment practices are in line relevant Acts.
4. Sharing of information with outside agencies is permitted.
5. Staff will be provided with information and training in order to recognise and respond with suspected abuse and neglect.
6. The school will have in place policy and procedures to deal with an allegation involving a staff member.
7. The school will ensure that any external organisation that has a contracting and/or funding arrangement with the school will provide a copy of their child protection policy upon request.
8. Any external organisation that has a contracting and/or funding arrangement with the school must agree to the schools Policies and Procedures.

Related policies:

- 5.1 Health & Safety Policy
- 5.2 Drug, Alcohol and Smokefree Policy
- 5.3 Complaints Policy
- 5.4 Sexual Harassment Policy
- 5.5 Bullying Policy
- 5.6 Cybersafety Policy

5.7 International Student Policy

Related procedures:

- 5.1 Abuse, Neglect and Disclosure Procedures
- 5.2 Administering Medication Procedures
- 5.3 Health and Safety Procedures
- 5.4 Managing Student Behaviour Procedures
- 5.5 Outside Agencies – Referrals to and Liaison with Procedures
- 5.6 Pandemic and Infectious Diseases Procedures
- 5.7 Searching Students Procedures
- 5.8 Sexual Harassment: Procedures for making and handling complaints
- 5.9 Stand Down and Suspension: School Procedures
- 5.10 Visitors to School Procedures
- 5.11 Removing Student from Class and Use of Reflection Room Procedures
- 5.12 Transport of Students Procedures
- 5.13 Cybersafety Procedures
- 5.14 Complaints Procedures
- 5.15 EOTC Procedures

Supporting documents:

- Safer Organisations, Safer Children
- Vulnerable Children's Act 2014
- Health and Safety Reform Bill
- Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989

Reviewed: Term 2, 2016

Next Review date: Term 2, 2019

Signed: 

Designation: Chair, Board of Trustees