

## Child Protection Policy

See also: **Supporting Procedures and Policies**

- *Staff Code of Conduct*
- *Appointments Policy and checklist*
- *Online Publication of Student Images and Work Policy*
- *Harassment Policy*
- *Protected Disclosures Policy*
- *Child Protection Policy - Procedures*

### **Rationale:**

The purpose of this Policy is to provide information and guidance to ensure the wellbeing and protection of young people in our care and we are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The school accepts its responsibility under the legislation for engaging in safe employment practices and playing a role in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect.

### **Purpose:**

The school is committed to modelling and providing a safe environment, free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse, or neglect.

The school recognises the important role and responsibility that all staff have in identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect and in responding appropriately to concerns about the wellbeing of a young person.

The school is committed to working with other child related agencies to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children.

### **Responding to suspected abuse or neglect:**

1. When an incident or suspicion of abuse or neglect is reported it will be referred immediately to the Child Protection co-ordinator who will ensure a counsellor talks to the student.  
At all stages of the process the school will be sensitive to the cultural beliefs of those involved.
2. If there is clear evidence or reasonable cause to believe an instance of child abuse or neglect has taken place, the Child Protection Coordinator will immediately take steps to protect the child and may notify Oranga Tamariki and/or the police.
3. A written report will be made by the Child Protection Co-ordinator and will be made available, if required to Oranga Tamariki, Police or other relevant appropriate outside agencies.