

SCHOOL PROCEDURE 07: VULNERABLE CHILDREN ACT 2014 ORANGA TAMARIKI - MINISTRY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Rationale

The Whareorino School Board is required to comply with the Vulnerable Children Act 2014, in its role as the body with overall responsibility for effective Board governance, and the operations of the school. This procedure is to be read in conjunction with Board Operational Policy 12, Pastoral Care - Students.

S19 Content of child protection policy:

Every child protection policy required by this Part must -

- (a) apply to the provision of children's services by the service, board, or independent person that adopts the policy; and
- (b) be written, and contain provisions (whether or not it contains provisions on any other matter or matters) on the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect in accordance with [section 15](#) of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989.

Reporting of child abuse:

S15 Reporting of ill-treatment or neglect of child or young person

Any person 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 may report the matter to the chief executive or a constable.

Definitions:

Child and Young Person	A child is someone under the age of 14 years and a young person is someone aged 14 years and over, but under 17 years who is not or has never been married or in a civil union (section 2, CYP&F Act).
Child Abuse	Child Abuse means the harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person (section 2, CYP&F Act).
Notification Referral Reporting	Notification, referral and reporting are all terms used to describe making a report of concern to Child, Youth and Family and/or Police.

Child abuse/neglect includes:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional/psychological abuse e.g. family violence, exposure to illegal activities, rejection
- Neglect e.g. medical neglect, abandonment, neglectful supervision.

Guidelines for reporting child abuse/ neglect:

- The child's safety should always be the paramount consideration in the notification process.
- No decisions or actions in respect of suspected or actual child abuse are to be made by any staff member in isolation unless there are concerns for the immediate safety of the child.
- A consultative approach will be used, (Staff Pastoral Care Committee) to ensure the safety of the child and the staff member. Staff must discuss their concerns with the principal or nominated person/advocate. Where applicable follow the board's complaint policy.
- Decisions about informing parents or caregivers should be made after consultation between the school and Oranga Tamariki.

The Act: (CTRL and CLICK to follow the link)

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PRINCIPAL

Dated: February 1, 2022