

## **CHILD ABUSE POLICY**

### **RATIONALE**

In accordance with the requirements under the Education Act 1989 Section 61, 61(2), 77, 139A and any other relevant legislation under NAG 5, this school will ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect and have the right to have their needs met in a safe environment.

### **PURPOSES**

1. To ensure the safety of the child.
2. To provide procedures for dealing with cases of suspected abuse or neglect.

### **GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES**

1. Guidelines will be provided for all staff to assist with identification of abuse and neglect.
2. It is essential to keep records of the steps taken, and/or incidents, as they occur.
  - a) The record should be factual, not speculative, with dates and times included.
  - b) These records must be kept confidential and will be lodged in the concerns file.
3. Communication should be only with those people who need to know, in order to promote the best interest of the child.
4. The Principal shall be informed before any action is taken involving outside authorities.
5. The Principal may wish to discuss the concerns with the Public Health Nurse, or any other relevant agency.
6. Parents will be informed except where the student's welfare is likely to be threatened. Whichever agency is involved in the cases, that agency will be responsible for informing parents as this agency will have the skills to handle the situation in the most appropriate way to support the child.
7.
  - a) Should the school be used for interviews, parents should be informed except under the provisions of Section 17 of the Children and Young Persons Act.
  - b) If the parents are not at the interview, the Principal must come to a clear understanding with the interviewer of the means by which the parents will be informed.
  - c) To support the student, it may, at times, be appropriate for the Principal or another staff member to be present at the interview.

### **CONCLUSION**

- a) In any instance of child abuse the welfare of the child is paramount.
- b) Any complaints against staff, see Complaints Policy, Section B.

### **ASSOCIATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Policies:	Procedures:
Child Management	See Child Abuse procedures in Procedures folder
Health and Safety	
Complaints	
Parent in School	

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