



Child Protection Policy - NAG 5

Rationale

Royal Oak Intermediate School is committed to the fundamental right of Children to enjoy a safe environment free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse or neglect.

We recognise the important role and responsibility of all of our staff in the protection of children by identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect and appropriately responding to concerns about the wellbeing of a child.

Purpose

1. To ensure that all children related agencies, core and non-core workers supporting children and their whānau work together to improve the well-being of all potentially vulnerable children.
2. To ensure that any and all support and protection provided to children is aligned to the framework as outlined in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi).
3. To ensure that there are clear guidelines specifying roles and responsibilities for all parties charged with ensuring the wellbeing of students who attend Royal Oak Intermediate School.
4. To ensure that the requirements as outlined within Part 2, Section 18 (a), (b), (c) & (d) of the Vulnerable Children Act of 2014 and all supporting legislation are met.

Guidelines

1. The Principal is to ensure that leaders within the school work together with other children's agencies (such as the Police, Child Youth and Family, Social Workers, etc.) to improve the well-being of vulnerable children by:
 - a) Protecting them from abuse and neglect
 - b) Improving their physical and mental health and their cultural and emotional well-being
 - c) Improving their educational outcomes and encouraging their participation in cultural and extra-curricular activities
 - d) Strengthening their connection to their families, whānau, hapu and iwi, or other culturally recognised family groups
 - e) Increasing their participation in self-decision making and their contribution to society
 - f) Improving their social and economic well-being
2. The Principal is to ensure that safe recruitment practices in line with the Vulnerable Children Act of 2014 are in place.
3. The Principal is to ensure that information is shared in line with the Privacy Act 1993 and the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 to keep children safe when abuse or suspected abuse is reported or being investigated
4. The Principal is to ensure that core and non-core workers have been provided with training in order to recognise and respond to suspected abuse and neglect. The training should ensure roles and expectations of adult behaviour with children meet professional requirements as this will assist with the personal safety of core and non-core workers.
5. The Principal will ensure that there are procedures in place to identify and respond to allegations regarding abuse.
6. The Principal will ensure that there are procedures in place to deal with an allegation involving a staff member.

- Any “core working” external organisation that has a contracting and/or funding arrangement with the school must provide a copy of their Children Protection Policy to the Principal as well as agree to the school’s Child Protection Policy and accompanying procedures.

Definition

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

Core workers: Examples of roles that may meet this definition are doctors, teachers, nurses, paediatricians, youth counsellors and social workers.

Ref: <http://childrensactionplan.govt.nz/childrens-workforce/safety-checking-and-the-workforce-restriction/>

Supporting Procedures

In order to fulfil the policy, the board and management have developed, and will regularly review, the following procedures;

• Staff code of Conduct	• Appointment (recruitment) Process
• Identifying, Responding and Reporting alleged abuse	• Child Abuse
• Online Publication of Student Images and Work	• Student safety and welfare

Supporting Documents

Documents supporting this policy and its associated procedures include but are not limited to;

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy Framework
- Vulnerable Children Act 2014
- Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- Education Act 1989 including all associated amendments
- Child Protection Act 2016
- He Pitopito Kōrero | Ministry Bulletin for School Leaders

Ratified by the Board

Chairperson: Erina Kent

Date

Next Review November 2018 or sooner if new information comes to hand.

Review History

14/9/2015	20/11/2016	31/10/2017				
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