

EVERGLADE SCHOOL
POLICY: CHILD PROTECTION

Policy No: 5.1

National Administration Guideline 5

Rationale

This policy outlines the board's commitment to child protection and recognises the important role and responsibility of all our staff in the protection of our children. It includes the procedures to be followed when child abuse is reported or suspected. Accountability for child protection sits with the board, who delegate responsibility to the principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors, volunteers and parents.

Purposes

1. The board of trustees has an obligation to ensure that well-being of children in our care so that they thrive, belong and achieve. We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of children. The safety and wellbeing of the child is our top priority. Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.
2. In line with section 15 of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act, any person in our school 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 must follow school procedures and may also report the matter to a social worker or the local police.

Guidelines

On behalf of the board, the Principal and staff will:

1. Develop procedures to meet child safety requirements as appropriate to the school.
2. Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities.
3. Ensure this policy is available on the school's website, and on request.
4. Ensure that every contract or funding arrangement that the school enters into will comply with the school's child protection policy and procedures.
5. Keep the interests and protection of the child paramount in all circumstances.
6. Recognise the rights of family/whanau to participate in decision-making about their child.
7. Support staff to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect, deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action in response.
8. Support all staff to work in accordance with this policy, to work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection policies are understood and implemented.
9. Promote a culture where staff feel confident they can constructively challenge poor practice or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal.
10. Consult, discuss and share relevant information, in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information sharing protocols, in a timely way regarding any concerns about an individual child with the board or designated person.
11. Seek advice as necessary from NZSTA advisers on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise.
12. Make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy.
13. Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member.

Relevant Documents:

Appendix 5.1.1

Appendix 5.1.2

Approved: July 2016

Review: as per Policy review Schedule