

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NAG 5: 514

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

The St Dominic's Catholic College Board affirms that in keeping with the Special Character of the College it must meet its statutory obligation to maintain a safe learning environment for the students and staff at the College. The Board has an obligation to ensure the wellbeing of children in our care so they thrive, belong and achieve.

PURPOSES

1. 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 children. It includes the board's expectations when child abuse is reported or suspected by us.
2. All staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with this policy, its associated procedures and protocols and abide by them.
3. We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all 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.
4. In line with the current Vulnerable Children's Act, any person in our school/kura 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 Oranga Tamariki if in imminent danger/risk or to the local police.

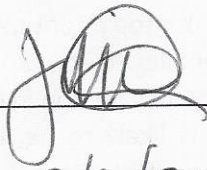
GUIDELINES

Although ultimate accountability sits with the board, the board delegates responsibility to the principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors, volunteers and parents. Therefore, the principal must:

1. Develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school.
2. Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.
3. Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
4. Make this policy available on the school's internet site or available on request
5. Ensure that every contract, or funding arrangement, that the school enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required
6. Ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances.
7. Recognise the rights of family/whanau to participate in the decision-making about their children

8. Ensure that all staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect, and respond appropriately to disclosures of identified signs of abuse and neglect.
9. All abuse allegations against staff will be escalated to the principal; all abuse allegations against the principal will be escalated to the Presiding Member to the board.
10. Promote a culture where staff feel confident to raise issues of concern regarding student welfare and safety without fear of reprisal.
11. Consult, with designated staff and board if required, in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information sharing protocols, in a timely way regarding any concerns about an student welfare.
12. Seek advice as necessary from NZSTA advisors on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise.
13. Make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy.
14. Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member.
15. Visitor's staff and volunteers and outside instructors should be monitored by staff.
16. Staff will be made aware of the legal guidelines regarding the reporting and collecting of personal information regarding abuse and neglect.
17. We commit not to use 'settlement agreements', because these are contrary to a culture of child protection.

Ratified by the Board



3/4/2022

Signed by Presiding
Member of the Board

Date