



Child Protection Policy

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.

All staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with the policy, its associated procedures and protocols and abide by them.

The board of trustees has an obligation to ensure the well-being of children in our care so they thrive, belong and achieve. 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 (see *Child Abuse Policy for further details*).

In line with section 15 of the Children, Young Person 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 (*found in the Guidance and Support Handbook*) and may also report the matter to a Oranga Tamariki or the local police.

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:

- Develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school
- Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
- Make this policy available on the school's internet site and available on request
- Ensure that every contract or funding arrangement that the school enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required
- Ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances
- Recognise the rights of family/whanau to participate in the decision making about their children
- Ensure that all staff are able 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

- 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
- Promote a culture where staff feel confident they can constructively challenge poor practise or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal
- 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
- Seek advice as necessary from NZSTA advisors on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise
- Make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in the terms of this policy
- Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member

The philosophy of child protection at Kauri Flats School

- The safety and wellbeing of all children within our school is paramount. With this in mind we place the child at the centre of all decisions made when responding to suspected abuse or neglect
- We will endeavour to create a culture where staff feel confident to raise issues of concern in relation to suspected abuse or neglect
- We place importance on the family/whanau and their right to participate in decision making about the child unless assessed risk deems this to be unsafe
- Ensure all staff are aware that they can report suspected child abuse and neglect to Oranga Tamariki or the Police should the Pastoral Care Team (Leadership) not be available