

Child Protection

H17

RATIONALE:

The Board of Trustees recognises its responsibility to ensure that the school is a safe and healthy place for its students and other people. Children have a fundamental right to have their needs met and to be safe from abuse and neglect. The Vulnerable Children Act (2014), which came into effect on July 2015, requires all children related agencies to work together to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.

PURPOSE:

The Board of Trustees accepts it has an obligation to ensure the wellbeing 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. This policy is designed to assist supporting children, their families, children agencies, core and non-core workers to provide for the safety and well-being of our students.

GUIDELINES:

1. We will endeavour to provide a safe environment for our students, free from physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse.
2. We recognise the important role and responsibility of all our staff in the protection of children by identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect and appropriately responding to concerns about the safety and well-being of vulnerable children.
3. Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse. In line with section 15 of the Children, Young Person and Their Families / [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#) 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 a social worker or the local police.
4. 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 (refer to the *Child Protection Procedures* attached).
 - Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities.
 - Make this policy available on the school's internet site or 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/whānau 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 practice 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 terms of this policy.
- Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member.

5. To comply with the legal regulations we will review this policy every three years.

CONCLUSION:

By implementing our Child Protection's policy, guidelines and procedures Richmond School are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all our students. These will assist in supporting children, their families, children agencies, core and non-core workers to provide for the safety and well-being of our students.

Paul Suisted
CHAIRPERSON

Date ratified: 10th August 2022

Next review date: Term 3 2025 (legal requirement reviewed every three years)

Supportive resources:

- <http://www.nzsta.org.nz/> - further information including frequently asked questions
- <http://www.education.govt.nz/>
- [Vulnerable Children Act 2014](#)
- [Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children](#) - further information and sample child protection templates

Relevant Richmond School policies and procedures:

- **H1** – Suspected Child Abuse and procedures
- **H2** – Emergency Procedures
- **H3** – Sunsmart
- **H4** – Student Illness
- **H5** – Internet Safety
- **H6** – Road Safety

- **H7** – Injury Prevention
- **H8** – Staff Health and Safety
- **H9** – Physical Contact with students
- **H10** – Sexual Harassment
- **H11** – Smokefree school environment
- **H12** – Transport for trips
- **H13** – Sexuality Education
- **H14** – Swimming pool Health and Safety
- **H15** – Health and Safety
- **H16** – Physical Restraint of children

- **L4** – Education outside the classroom
- **L15** – Keeping Ourselves safe

- **P5** – Protected Disclosures
- **P5** – Complaints against staff members
- **P8** – Staff Disciplinary procedures
- **P10** – Complaints against the Principal
- **P15** – Police vetting
- **P17** – Volunteer Workers
- **P18** – Handling concerns

- **A7** – Privacy
- **A9** – Student Behaviour Management
- **A10** – Anti-bullying

- Procedures for dealing with non-custodian parents
- The school traffic safety teams procedures

Richmond School’s Child Protection procedures:

- Attached.

This policy has been written in accordance with the following legislation:

- Education Act, 1989
- Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act, 1989 and any subsequent Amendments
- Crimes Act, 1961
- Domestic Violence Act, 1995
- Health Act, 1956
- Health and Disability Sector Standards Regulations, 2001
- Official Information Act, 1982
- Privacy Act, 1993
- Health Information Privacy Code, 1994
- Vulnerable Children’s Act, 2014
- Care of Children Act, 2004
- Employment Relations Act, 2000
- Human Rights Act, 1993
- Protected Disclosures Act, 2000