

GREEN BAY SCHOOL POLICIES

NAG 5 Health & Safety

5.1 Child Protection

RATIONALE

To provide a safe, trusting and sympathetic environment for children at all times.

DEFINITION

Child abuse: a situation where a parent or guardian injures a child, including but not limited to physical neglect or emotional or sexual maltreatment. It always involves a child who is "hurt" in some way.

GUIDELINES

1. Action must be taken immediately:
 - (a) if a child exhibits signs of abuse,
 - (b) if a child expresses a concern.
2. The child must be believed and reassured if he/she is distressed.
3. Everything the child says will be documented by the contacted teacher, but **NO** interview must take place.
4. The case may be discussed with classroom teacher, syndicate leader, AP's or Principal. This may just be a statement that you are reporting concern about a child, or intending to make a referral, to Child, Youth & Family Services and/or to the Police, but in every other way confidentiality must be maintained with all parties concerned. The Syndicate Leader, AP or Principal will make a dated, written record of the concern.
5. The Principal will be informed of all cases of concern, and these will be recorded by the Principal.
6. The Principal or AP involved, may refer the incident/s to Child Youth & Family Services (CYFS) and/or the Police, asking for either the duty social worker or the child protection team.
7. If the Principal considers that the concern should be reported or referred, that will be done as a matter of urgency.
8. The child will not be questioned further by any staff member as regards the concerns pending advice by the Child Youth & Family Services or other appropriate agency. This includes any specific contact regarding the concerns with the family of the child being referred.
9. Reference should be made to Department of Education Circular 1997/12 (Responsibility of Boards of Trustees for student safety) and Breaking the Cycle, Interagency Protocols for Child Abuse Management (1996), (CYFS, MoE, NZSTA) and Let's Stop Child Abuse Together - An Interagency Guide to Breaking the Cycle (2001).
10. Staff will be given opportunities for professional development on ways to prevent, recognise and respond to abuse.
11. A Complaints Procedure is in place to protect students and staff from unwarranted allegations of abuse.
12. The Board and Principal will ensure systems are in place to screen staff for relevant previous convictions.

13. The school will include personal safety in the health educational programme.

Signed: _____
Principal

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Approved: 15.08.95
Rev 18.10.00
Rev 19.02.03
Rev 16.11.05
Rev: 25.10.06
Rev: 24.03.10

Rev: