

Child Protection Policy

All children are treated with dignity and respect and have the right to have their needs met in a safe environment. All members of Board and staff are committed to the protection of all children at Otonga Road School. We will report any concerns or suspicions of ill-treatment, neglect or abuse to the appropriate authorities.

Further Support and guidelines

1. Purposes

2. To ensure the safety of the child.
3. To provide teachers and support staff with guidelines so that they can identify signs of abuse or neglect.
4. To comply with relevant legislation.
5. To provide procedures for dealing with cases of abuse or neglect.
6. To provide guidelines of which help agencies will be used, interview procedures and how parents or care-givers will be informed.
7. To provide children with preventative education to enhance their safety and awareness through health curriculum and programmes such as Keeping Ourselves Safe.

Procedures

- Adults in the school environment will be receptive and sensitive to children so that the children feel listened to.
- All staff will be Police Vetted every 3 years.
- This policy will form part of the initial staff induction.
- The school will use the most appropriate agency for sexual abuse and the most appropriate agency for physical abuse and/or neglect. Care will be taken to protect privacy concerns.
- In the case of a report from a third party to the school, the first course of action will be that the school will direct the third party to a helping agency without becoming involved. The school may be involved at a later date.
- Keeping ourselves safe and self-esteem units will be taught as part of the Health & P.E. Curriculum to increase children's assertive skills in dealing with uncomfortable situations and to help raise teachers' consciousness of the issues.
- Parents will be informed except where the student's welfare is likely to be threatened. Whichever agency is involved in the cases will be responsible for informing parents, as they have the skills to handle the situation in the most appropriate way to support the child.
- This policy will be available on our website
- Senior management (P/DP/AP) will be the resource people in this area. Teachers who have concerns must discuss them with any one of these resource people. No outside agency will be involved without the prior knowledge of the Principal
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