



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

National Administration Guideline 5 - Health and Safety

Background to Policy

This policy is implemented to supply guidance in regard to Section 15, Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (child protection) and the Children's Act 2014, if you have concerns of child abuse.

Policy Statement

This policy outlines the boards commitment to child protection and recognises the important role and responsibility of all our staff in the protection of children. It includes the boards expectations when child abuse is reported or suspected by staff or members of the public.

Policy Implementation

1. For more detailed advice on the actions necessary refer to the attached policy guidance sheet in the first instance.
2. Inform the principal or deputy principal immediately of your concerns.
3. www.education.govt.nz search: Child Protection.
4. Children's Act 2014.

Principles of Child Protection

While many of the principles listed below are considered values we encompass in everything we do as a School, it is important to capture and reinforce these alongside our more child protection specific principles. These principles apply to every staff member.

Our child protection principles are:

- i. Making the safety and wellbeing of children our primary concern, with the child at the centre of all decision-making when responding to suspected abuse or neglect
- ii. Promoting a culture where staff feel confident to constructively challenge poor practice and raise issues of concern
- iii. Recognition of the culture of the family/whānau, its importance and the rights of family/whānau to participate in decision-making about their children unless this would result in an escalation of risk to the child
- iv. All staff know they can report suspected child abuse and neglect to:
 - the Principal;
 - the Deputy Principal;
 - the Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki);
 - the Police.

Key Principles

Our commitments are:

- i. A commitment to work together to produce the best possible outcomes for the child and to work towards continuous improvement in child protection practices, and all policies and initiatives are designed to promote (be inclusive of) a child protection culture
- ii. A commitment to develop and maintain links with iwi, Pasifika and other cultural and community groups and to ensure that important cultural concepts (e.g. whakamanawa, whakapapa, te reo Māori, tikanga, kaitiakitanga, wairuatanga) are integrated, as appropriate, into practice

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- iii. A commitment to open and transparent relationships with parents and the RidgeView community, including being willing to share concerns about child safety issues with the family/whānau unless this would result in an escalation of risk
- iv. An organisational commitment to support all staff to work in accordance with the policy, to work with partner agencies and community organisations to ensure child protection policies are consistent and of high quality and to always comply with relevant legislative responsibilities
- v. A commitment to share information in a timely way and to discuss any concerns about an individual child with the designated person for child protection, deputy principal, the Board, The Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) or the Police.
- vi. A commitment to meet all existing statutory and contractual obligations, including matters relating to employment

Whakamanawa:

To encourage, inspire, instil confidence, give confidence, to reassure, support and rely on.

Whakapapa:

Genealogy, lineage.

Tikanga:

Correct procedure, custom, protocol, customary system of values.

Kaitiakitanga:

Guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship or trustee.

Wairuatanga:

Spirituality.

This policy will be reviewed as per the Board's Effectiveness Review Programme

Confirmed by the Board on: 09/08/2022 (date)

The planned review date will be: August 2024 (date)

Presiding Member

Principal