

Port Ahuriri School Child Protection Policy

Rationale

Children have a fundamental right to have all their needs met and to be safe from abuse and neglect. The Vulnerable Children Act of 2014, which came into effect on 1 July 2015, requires all children related agencies to work together to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.

Purpose

We provide a safe environment, free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse.

We recognise the important role and responsibility of all of our staff in the protection of children by identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect and appropriately responding to concerns about the wellbeing of a child.

To ensure that Part 2, Section 18 (a), (b), (c) & (d) of the Vulnerable Children Act of 2014 are met.

- a) adopt a child protection policy
- b) ensure that the policy is available on the school website and is available upon request from the school office
- c) ensure that all agencies, contracts or funding arrangements fulfil the requirements of this policy
- d) review the policy every three years

Guidelines

The Principal is required to ensure that leaders within the school work together with other children's agencies (such as the Police, Child Youth and Family, Social Workers, etc.) to improve the well-being of vulnerable children by:

- protecting them from abuse and neglect
- improving their physical and mental health and their cultural and emotional well-being
- improving their educational outcomes and their participation in cultural and extra-curricular activities
- Increasing their participation in self-decision making and their contribution to society
- strengthening their connection to their families, whanau, hapu and iwi, other culturally recognised family groups

The Principal is to ensure that safe recruitment practices in line with the Vulnerable Children Act of 2014 are in place.

Core and non-core workers will have been provided with training in order to recognise and respond to suspected abuse and neglect. The training should ensure roles and expectations of adult behaviour with children meet professional requirements as this will assist with the personal safety of core and non-core workers.

The Principal will ensure that there are procedures in place to identify and respond to allegations regarding abuse.

The Principal will ensure that there are procedures in place to deal with the possibility of an allegation involving a staff member.

Any external organisation that has a contracting and/or funding arrangement with the school must provide a copy of their Children Protection Policy to the Principal as well as agree to the school's Child Protection Policy and accompanying procedures.

Definition:

Child abuse: Includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as neglect which is the direct consequence of a deliberate act or omission by an adult and which has the potential or effect of serious harm to the child.

Child neglect: Failure or omission to care for a child. This can be physical, emotional, medical, educational and a lack of supervision.

Supporting Procedures

- Accidents and Sickness at School / During School Activities
- Vulnerable Children's Act – Checking Procedures
- Sexual, Physical and Emotional Abuse
- Non-Custodial Parent
- Child Abuse Allegations Against Employees in Schools

Supporting Policies

- Appointments
- Stand-down and Suspensions
- Search, Surrender and Retention of Property

Supporting Documents

- Safer organisations Safer children — Guidelines for child protection policies to build safer organisations
- Vulnerable Children Act (2014)
- Health and Safety at Work Act (2015)
- Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act (1989)

Adopted May 2016