

NORTHLAND SCHOOL

Health and Safety Procedures Child Protection



All children should be treated with respect and dignity and have the right to have their needs met in a safe environment. Staff will be receptive and sensitive to children so that they feel listened to and believed.

1. Where a staff member is concerned about a child or a child has made a disclosure, they should discuss it with the Principal. Documentation will be kept of the concerns and any facts noted.
2. The Principal or nominee will be responsible for contacting the Ministry for Children, Oranga Tamariki. The Principal will provide feedback to the staff member that the concern has been notified to an external agency.
3. The Ministry for Children, Oranga Tamariki will be responsible for informing parents.
4. All information/discussions will be confidential to the people involved and the Principal will store any recorded information in a secure place.
5. In the case of a report from a third party the school will advise the third party to contact the Ministry for Children, Oranga Tamariki or the Police.
6. Where an interview is held with a child Ministry for Children, Oranga Tamariki on school premises, the agency may request that an adult (whom the child has confidence in) from the school be present. All people interviewing the child must provide identification and appropriate authority allowing them to interview the child. Only police, social workers from the Ministry for Children, Oranga Tamariki and the lawyer for the child (if appointed by the Family Court) will be allowed to interview children.
7. Support for staff and the child concerned will be sought from the agency involved.
8. Where a complaint of child abuse is made against a staff member the procedures set out in the teachers' collective employment contract regarding complaints against teachers will be followed.
9. Keeping Ourselves Safe, the Sexuality Road Programme and self esteem programmes will be taught as part of the school's Health and PE Curriculum to increase children's assertiveness skills in dealing with uncomfortable situations and to help raise student and staff awareness of issues.