

<p style="text-align: center;">BLOMFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL & RESOURCE CENTRE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY</p>
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RATIONALE:

Blomfield School is committed to the prevention of abuse and to the wellbeing of our students. This policy recognises the importance of the role and responsibility of our staff in the protection of the children and young people.

PURPOSE:

- To provide clear guidelines to ensure staff can identify and respond appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect, and to understand their role in keeping children safe.
- In line with Section 15 of The Children and Young Persons Family Act, all staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with this policy and abide by these guidelines.
- The Children and Young Persons Family Act, 1989 defines child abuses as:

“...harming (whether physically, emotionally, sexually), ill treatment, abuse neglect or deprivation of any child or young person”

GUIDELINES:

- All staff are expected to behave in manners consistent with the Blomfield School Code of Conduct.
- All staff are expected to behave in manners that maintain appropriate professional boundaries and avoid behaviour that maybe misinterpreted by others.
- Relevant staff will be provided with support and guidance to ensure they are able to identify suspected abuse and or neglect and respond appropriately.
- The designated person for Child Protection at Blomfield School is the Principal or the person deputising for the Principal.
- All concerns of potential, suspected or alleged abuse must be brought to the attention of the Principal. If the Principal is unavailable the consultation should occur with the person deputising for the Principal at the time. A decision will be made as to whether to seek further advice or notify Child Youth & Family immediately or call the Police for students 18 years old and over.
- Principal to inform Board of Trustees Chairperson of the matter as soon as practical.
- If a child makes a verbal disclosure to a member of staff it is important that the staff member takes what the child says seriously.
- Under no circumstances should a staff member attempt to conduct an investigation or deal with concern regarding the child abuse alone.
- All decisions taken, including if the concern does not require notifying Child Youth & Family. (see attached flow chart) must be recorded in writing and kept securely in a file with reasons clearly identified and explained.
- Giving information to protect children better is not a breach of confidentiality. Wherever possible the family/whanau should be kept informed on what information has been shared and with which agency and for what purpose. Principle 11 of the Privacy Act 1993 states *“disclosure of the information is necessary to prevent of lessen a serious threat”*.

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- The school will provide preventative education within their delivery of the New Zealand Curriculum. Programmes will be developed to increase the students' understanding of their right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Reviewed and adopted by the Board of Trustees

Dated: 23rd June 2016

