

Golden Bay High School

Child Protection Policy

Related Policies and Procedures:

Concerns and Complaints Policy
Harrassment Policy
Procedures for reporting suspected or disclosed child abuse
Protected Disclosure Policy

Policy

1. Any person in our school who believes that any child or young person has been, or is likely to be, harmed (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treated, abused, neglected, or deprived must follow school procedures and may also report the matter to a social worker, the local police or other appropriate persons.
2. Every contract, or funding arrangement, that the school enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies and procedures.
3. The interests and protection of the child/young person are paramount in all circumstances.
4. GBHS recognises that family/whānau have rights to participate in the decision-making about their children
5. Professional development and support will be provided so that staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect, deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action in response.
6. Staff will consult, seek advice, discuss and share relevant information, in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information sharing protocols, in a timely way regarding any concerns about an individual child with appropriate persons.
7. This policy and the procedures for reporting suspected or disclosed child abuse will form part of the initial staff induction programme for new staff members.

Definitions

Clear definitions of key terms and concepts helpful for reducing confusion or uncertainty amongst staff and those accessing the service.

- a. **Abuse** – the harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treatment, neglect or deprivation of any child.
- b. **Neglect** – the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical or psychological needs, leading to adverse or impaired physical or emotional functioning or development.
- c. **Child** – any child or young person aged under 17 years, and who is not married or in a civil union.
- d. **Child protection** – activities carried out to ensure that children are safe in cases where there is suspected abuse or neglect or the risk of abuse or neglect.

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- e. **Designated person for child protection** – the Principal or nominee will be responsible for providing advice and support to staff where they have a concern about an individual child or who want advice about the child protection policy.
- f. **Disclosure** – information given to a staff member by the child, parent or caregiver or third party in relation to abuse or neglect.
- g. **Oranga Tamariki** – the agency responsible for investigating and responding to suspected abuse and neglect and for providing a statutory response to children found to be in need of care and protection.
- h. **New Zealand Police** – the agency responsible for responding to situations where a child is in immediate danger and for working with Oranga Tamariki in child protection work, including investigating cases of abuse or neglect where an offence may have occurred.
- i. **Children’s services** – any organisation that provides services to children or to adults where contact with children may be part of the service. These organisations should have child protection policies. Organisations that provide services to adults who may be caring for or parenting children should also consider developing a policy, e.g., adult mental health and addiction services.