

Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The daily life of the college will be permeated with the values of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Special links will be maintained with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions as the College Founders and their special charism reinforced in the College.

The Board of Trustees has an obligation to ensure the wellbeing of children in our care so they thrive, belong and achieve. We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all children. The safety and wellbeing of the child is our top priority. Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.

This policy outlines the board's commitment to child protection and recognises the important role and responsibility of all our staff in the protection of children. It includes the Board's expectations when child abuse is reported or suspected by us.

All staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with this policy, its associated procedures and protocols and comply with them.

In line with section 15 of the Children, Young Person and Their Families Act, any person working at Sacred Heart Girls' College, who believes that any student has been, or is likely to be, harmed (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually) ill-treated, abused, neglected, or deprived, must follow school procedures; they may also report the matter to a social worker or the local police.

Although ultimate accountability sits with the Board, the Board delegates responsibility to the Principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors, volunteers and parents.

Therefore, the Principal must:

1. Develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements
2. Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
3. Make this policy available on the school's internet site or available on request
4. Ensure that every contract, or funding arrangement, into which the school enters, requires the adoption of child protection policies where required
5. Ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances
6. Recognise the rights of family/whanau to participate in the decision-making about their children
7. Ensure that all 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
8. Support all staff to work in accordance with this policy, work with partner agencies to ensure child protection policies are understood and implemented

9. Promote a culture where staff feel confident they can challenge poor practice/behaviour of staff or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal from staff
10. In line with our commitment to confidentiality and information sharing protocols, consult, discuss and share relevant information regarding any concerns about an individual child with the Designated Person for Child Protection or the Board
11. Seek advice as necessary from NZSTA advisors on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise
12. Make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy
13. Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting held on 22 August 2016

Chairperson  _____ B Hunt

REVIEW: this policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustee Triennially

REFERENCES

- NZSTA website www.nzsta.org.nz
- Ministry of Education website www.education.govt.nz
- [Vulnerable Children Act 2014](#)
- Further information and sample child protection templates are available in the Children's Action Plan guideline Safer Organisations, Safer Children: <http://www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz/assets/CAP-Uploads/childrens-workforce/Safer-Organisations-safer-children.pdf>