

Policy: Child Protection

Policy Statement

Ensuring the wellbeing and safety of children, including the prevention of child abuse or maltreatment, is the paramount goal of Jireh Christian School. The interests of the child will be the chief consideration when any action is taken in response to suspected abuse or neglect. This organisation commits to supporting the statutory agencies (Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children) and the NZ Police) to investigate abuse and will report suspected cases and concerns to these agencies as per the process listed in Jireh Christian School's Child Protection Procedures. Staff will not assume responsibility beyond the level of experience and training. All staff and volunteers who deal directly with students in an unsupervised manner will be police vetted as part of normal practice. The principle of natural justice shall be applied to all allegations.

Procedural Guidelines

- Staff suspecting that a child is being abused must report their concerns to their Leader of Learning or Deputy Principal who will inform the Principal.
- The Principal will meet with the student to provide support and acquire details.
- Factual written records will be kept, detailing all relevant information with dates and times. These records are confidential.
- Wherever possible, staff will have a witness present when listening to a student's disclosure of abuse.
- The Principal will report to an agency with statutory powers to act: Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children), or the NZ Police.
- Support will be made available to the child involved, the home, and the class teacher, using the most appropriate personnel (e.g. staff, Special Education Service, Health Nurse).
- Where a report is received by the School from someone outside the School, that person will be directed to contact a helping agency. If necessary, the School may become involved.
- Guardians/Caregivers will be fully informed by the Principal, in consultation with the statutory agency, of alleged abuse, except when it is believed that the child could be put at risk.
- Any agency involved in a case will be responsible for communicating further information to the parents.
- Any alleged abuse of a child by a staff member will be actioned by approaching the Principal who will inform the Board Chair. The staff member will be informed and, if it is felt appropriate, released from class. If necessary, action will be taken in line with the relevant Employment Contract and guidelines issued in the School's Trustees' Handbook. The Teaching Council will also be notified.
- Periodic training will be offered to appropriate staff on identifying and reporting abuse. Refer "Breaking the Cycle – An Interagency Guide to Child Abuse," Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children).
- NZ Police vetting will be required for all non-teaching staff and unsupervised volunteers at Jireh Christian School. Regular volunteers must be police vetted. Non-regular volunteers should be police vetted at the discretion of the Principal. Helpers on camps need to be police vetted. Please submit all names to the Administration staff.

Review schedule: Triennially

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date	12 th September 2017	Chairperson R Thornton (Acting)
Reviewed	Date 28 th November 2017	Chairperson R Thornton
Reviewed	Date 23 rd June 2020	Chairperson M Causley