

POLICY

ABUSED CHILDREN

RATIONALE

Child abuse covers non-accidental injury, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect.

PURPOSES

- a) To ensure the safety of the child
- b) To provide procedures for identifying and dealing with cases of abuse and neglect as promptly as attention is required.

GUIDELINES

1. Teachers must be receptive and sensitive to children so that they feel listened to and believed.
2. Teachers need to be aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse.
3. A teacher is expected to take action when a child's wellbeing is clearly being affected. This should involve the Principal, Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal.
4. When an action is being taken, those involved must be careful about their value judgement, and consult with other professionals. Information must be recorded factually and accurately as soon as possible. **Don't work alone.**
5. The professional agency involved will be responsible for informing the parents as they have the skills to handle the situation in the most appropriate way to support the child. *Staff must not interview the child. Interviewing children and young people about sexual abuse is a specialised task.*
6. In the case of a third party report to the school, the school will direct that person to a professional agency without being involved.
7. The Physical Education and Health Curriculum will be used to teach children the skills to handle uncomfortable situations. i.e. Keeping Ourselves Safe, and DARE to make a choice.
8. At all times confidentiality is essential.
9. The principal has relevant information for staff that defines neglect and abuse, and also lists the signs and symptoms to look for.

CONCLUSION

Staff have procedures to follow to protect children suspected of neglect or abuse.

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