

KEA STREET SPECIALIST SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE

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36 Kea Street
ROTORUA

NAG 5: HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICY: CHILD PROTECTION

Rationale:

Kea Street Specialist School is committed to the fundamental right of Children to enjoy a safe environment free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse or neglect.

We recognise the important role and responsibility of all our staff in the protection of children by identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect and appropriately responding to concerns about the wellbeing of a child.

Purpose:

- To provide an organisation wide policy for responding to suspected abuse or neglect of a child.
- To ensure that there are clear procedures, guidelines specifying roles and responsibilities for all parties charged with ensuring the wellbeing of students who attend Kea Street Specialist School.
- To ensure compliance with all legislative requirements including the requirements outlined within Section 18 of the Vulnerable Children Act of 2014

Guidelines:

Although keeping children safe and protecting children is everyone's responsibility, 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 and will:

- Ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances.
- Develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school.
- Ensure that leaders within the school work together with other children's agencies (such as the Police, Child Youth and Family, Social Workers, etc.) to improve the well-being of vulnerable children by:
 - a. Protecting them from abuse and neglect
 - b. Improving their physical and mental health and their cultural and emotional well-being

- c. Improving their educational outcomes and encouraging their participation in cultural and extracurricular activities
- d. Strengthening their connection to their families, whānau, hapu and iwi, or other culturally recognised family groups
- e. Increasing their participation in self-decision making and their contribution to society
- f. Improving their social and economic well-being
- Ensure that safe recruitment practices in line with the Vulnerable Children Act of 2014 are in place.
- Ensure that information is shared in line with the Privacy Act 1993 and the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 to keep children safe when abuse or suspected abuse is reported or being investigated
- Ensure that all staff have been provided with training to recognise and respond to suspected abuse and neglect. The training should ensure that the roles and expectations of adult behaviour with children meet professional requirements. This will assist with the personal safety of staff.
- Ensure that there are procedures in place to identify and respond to allegations regarding abuse.
- Ensure that there are procedures in place to deal with an allegation involving a staff member.
- Ensure any "core working" external organisation that has a contracting and/or funding arrangement with the school, provide a copy of their Children Protection Policy to the Principal as well as agree to the school's Child Protection Policy and accompanying written procedures.
- Ensure a digital copy of this policy and its associated procedures can be easily found on the School website.

Conclusion:

The focus for this policy is to ensure everyone is aware of the procedures the school will take to protect children from any kind of abuse, and that staff will have clear guidelines to follow for any cases that are suspected or reported.

Ratified:	BOT Chairperson	 _____
	Principal	S. A Collins _____
	Date	20 / 11 / 2017 _____
	Next Review: Date	20/11/2020 _____