



GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



Good Shepherd School recognises the uniqueness of each individual as part of God's creation and supports this through the development of the individual's spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical ability. Good Shepherd School acknowledges that education is provided within the Catholic context.

The Good Shepherd School Board of Trustees recognises the unique position of Māori as tangata whenua, and its role and responsibilities in meeting its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi. Good Shepherd School is, therefore, committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its practical expression in our school.

The Board is committed to the prevention of abuse and to the well being of children under its care.

In accordance with section 15 of the Oranga Tamariki Act (1989), any person in the school who believes that any child 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 or the local police.

The Board delegates responsibility to the principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors and parents.

The principal will:

1. Develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required by law and as appropriate to Good Shepherd School.
2. Comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities.
3. Make this policy available on the Good Shepherd School's Internet site or available on request
4. Ensure that every contract, or funding arrangement that Good Shepherd School enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required.
5. Ensure that the interest and protection of the child is paramount.
6. Recognise the rights of family/whānau 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 and are able to take appropriate action in response.
8. Support all staff to work in accordance with this policy, to work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection policies are understood and implemented.
9. Promote a culture where staff feel confident that they can constructively challenge poor practice or raise issues of concern without fear or reprisal.

10. Consult, discuss and share relevant information in a timely way regarding any concerns about a child with the Board or the Chair of the Board.
11. Where appropriate make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure that all staff can carry out the requirements of this policy.
12. Ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for staff.
13. Ensure that a report is provided for the school's annual report regarding progress on implementation and compliance with any funding/contracting requirements.



Chairperson

November 2021
Approved

2024
Next Review