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| PARAPARAUMU SCHOOL  NAG 5  Child Protection Policy |

**Purpose**

Paraparaumu School prioritises the security, safety and wellbeing of all children at the school. We have child-focused policies and procedures guiding our decision making. We acknowledge that child protection is everyone’s responsibility and ensure that our child protection policies and procedures reflect best practice. We encourage family/whanau involvement in decisions impacting their children and involve children in decision-making about themselves, in age-appropriate ways.

**Scope**

Our child protection policies apply to all school staff, contractors and volunteers.

"Child", in the context of our child protection policies, means a young person aged under 18 years (who is not married or in a civil union) – Children's Act 2014.

**Sharing information**

We may share information with appropriate agencies to improve the health, safety and/or wellbeing of a child. When sharing information, the school is carefully guided by all privacy considerations. By law, we can share information with the Police and Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.

**Student and staff safety**

We take all concerns about student safety seriously and respond to concerns quickly. Prevention and early intervention are important and we use the least intrusive intervention possible, to protect vulnerable children.

We promote a culture where staff feel confident to challenge poor practice, or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal. We have a Protected Disclosure Policy on the school website.

When addressing a formal complaint, the school does not use settlement agreements where these contradict a culture of child protection.

**Child protection policy requirements**

Schools are subject to the Children's Act 2014 and must have readily available child protection policies. As required by the Act, child protection practices are incorporated into our policies and procedures.

The School Board/Commissioner delegates to the Principal daily responsibility for child protection policies and procedures. Our Principal is the first point of contact for concerns about child abuse or neglect.

**External agency interviews**

If Oranga Tamariki – Ministry of Children contacts the school to interview a child, that child has the right to a support person to sit beside them if they wish. This support person (e.g. guidance counsellor, teacher, or principal) focuses on the safety and wellbeing of the child. The police may contact the school to question a student – that student has the right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer. If the student is under 18 and is interviewed by police, they can nominate an adult to support them.

**Reviewing our policies and procedures related to child protection**

Child protection policies and procedures will be reviewed every two years when other policies are reviewed every three years, under the school’s policy review cycle. The Principal is involved in the Board’s review of policies and procedures and annually assures the Board of their efficacy.

**Legislation**

**Children's Act 2014**

**Oranga Tamariki Act 1989**

**Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017**

**Privacy Act 2020**

**Health and Safety at Work Act 2015**

Reviewed August 2022 Next review due August 2024