



Aidanfield Christian School

Aidanfield Christian School Board

Procedures: Child Safety

This policy works in conjunction with the Child Protection policy and procedures.

Aidanfield Christian School (the school) accepts that children have a fundamental right to have their needs met in an environment safe from abuse and neglect.

The school accepts its responsibility under the legislation for engaging in safe employment practices and playing a role in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect. Therefore:

- The school will appoint a "Specialist Education co-ordinator" (SENCO) from the staff to work alongside the Principal [2024 = Kaye Lawn and Janice Phillips]
- Teachers use appropriate checklists to help identify children showing signs of possible abuse
- Individual profiles are already kept on children. These will include observations on social development
- Keeping in mind children's welfare is paramount – parents may be consulted about changes in behaviour to identify causes. It may be caused by a change in the families' home circumstances
- Written records should be kept of every reported incident and subsequent action
- All information/discussions will be confidential to the staff involved and the two co-ordinators. Data will be stored confidentially by co-ordinators. This data will be kept for the duration of a child's stay at school. [coordinators are Guidance Counsellor and Principal]
- On changing schools, appropriate information will be forwarded with the child to their new school at the discretion of the two co-ordinators.
- *Any person having reasonable evidence of possible abuse may report directly to an appropriate agency eg. Oranga Tamariki*
- *Notwithstanding the bullet point above, where a teacher is concerned about the possible abuse of a child, by an adult or by another child, the teacher should report the matter to the two co-ordinators, or where the Principal is the suspected abuser, to the other co-ordinator and to the Chairman of the Board*
- In cases of abuse or suspected abuse, the Principal will contact Oranga Tamariki in the first instance. Where there is doubt as to the nature or extent of the abuse the co-ordinators should work with the reporter and or the child/student to confirm suspicions
- The parents or caregivers of a student/child involved in an abusive situation must be informed immediately except where one or more are implicated in the report or in a situation where the child's welfare is threatened
- Whenever an interview is held with a child, an adult on the staff in whom the child has confidence must be present. The welfare of the child must be the first priority and whenever this is compromised the interview must be terminated



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Board Chair Sign:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

Adopted On:

Date for Review:

February 2027