



Miramar Central School

Te Kura O Whataitai

Empowering Our Children

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DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE POLICY

Principles

The School will:

- act to protect the safety of students who disclose abuse or are suspected of being abused
- create a safe environment for the disclosure of abuse
- support staff, students and parents who make a disclosure.

Procedures


1. At all times, the students' health and safety will be paramount.
2. Staff will be provided with information to help them identify the signs of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, cyber or neglect.
3. Staff will make any concerns known to the Principal, Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal, who will, in consultation with staff and outside agencies, decide on the most suitable course of action.
4. In cases where it is obvious abuse has occurred or disclosure has been made, staff members notify the Principal, Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal immediately.
5. Where the Principal, Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal believe there may be any form of abuse, they will support the staff member to contact the Oranga Tamariki (former Child, Youth and Family Services) or the Police in accordance with Section 15 of the [Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 and the Vulnerable Childrens Act 2014](#).
6. Staff will maintain confidentiality when reporting a disclosure.
7. Staff and parents will, on reporting a disclosure, be provided with advice and support as to the way that they manage the information they have about suspected abuse.
8. Decisions about informing parents or caregivers should be made after consultation between the school and the statutory child protection service called in by them.
9. **Keeping Ourselves Safe (KOS)** will be part of the school's two year Health Curriculum Plan.

Disclosure of abuse by a Miramar Central School Staff member

1. Subject to the overriding safety of the child, the staff member will be informed by the Principal, Deputy or Assistant Principal of the allegation as soon as possible.
2. The staff member will be encouraged to seek appropriate advice and support.
3. The school will seek the advice of NZSTA.
4. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will be informed.

Reviewed: 17 June 2018

BOT Chairperson  Date: 19.06.18

Principal of MCS  Date: 19.06.18