



Operational Policy 14 Child Protection Policy

National Administration Guideline 5

Each School Board is required to:

- i. provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students;
- ii. comply in full with any legislation currently in force that may be developed to support the safety of students and employees.

Outcome Statement

Students at Miramar Christian School thrive, belong, and achieve to the best of their ability.

Our Commitment:

Miramar Christian School is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all children.

a. Definitions

- **Child** – any child or young person aged under 17 years and who is not married or in a civil union
- **Child protection** - activities carried out to ensure that children are safe in cases where there is suspected abuse or neglect or are at risk of abuse or neglect
- **Disclosure** - information given to a staff member by a child, parent, or caregiver or a third party in relation to abuse or neglect
- **Oranga Tamariki** - the agency responsible for investigating and responding to suspected abuse and neglect and for providing care and protection to children found to be in need
- **New Zealand Police** - the agency responsible for responding to situations where a child is in immediate danger and for working with Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Vulnerable Children in child protection work and investigating cases of abuse or neglect where an offence may have occurred
- **Physical abuse** - any acts that result or are likely to result, in physical harm of a child or young person.
- **Sexual abuse** - any acts that involve forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, or exposure to inappropriate material or behaviour.
- **Emotional abuse** - any act or omission that results in adverse or impaired psychological, social, intellectual, and emotional functioning or development. This can include:
 - exploitation, constant criticism, or negative comparison to others.
 - Exposure to family/whānau violence
- **Neglect** – neglect is the most common form of abuse and although the effects may not be as obvious as physical abuse, it is just as serious. Neglect can be:
 - Physical – not providing the necessities of life.
 - Neglectful supervision – leaving children without someone safe looking after them
 - Medical neglect – not taking care of health needs
 - Educational neglect – allowing chronic truancy or inattention to education needs.

b. Scoping

All staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with this policy, its associated procedures and protocols and abide by them.

Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.

In line with Section 15 of the [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#), any person in our school/kura who believes that any child or young person 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.

c. Delegations

Although ultimate accountability sits with the school 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.

d. Expectations and limitations

The principal must:

- develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the school
- comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
- make this policy available on the school's internet site or available on request
- ensure that every contract or funding arrangement that the school enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required
- ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances
- recognise the rights of family/whānau to participate in the decision making about their children
- ensure that all staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect and deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action in response
- support all staff to work in accordance with this policy to work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection procedures are understood and implemented
- promote a culture where staff feel confident, they can constructively challenge poor practice or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal
- consult, discuss and share relevant information with the school board or designated person in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information-sharing protocols in a timely way regarding any concerns about an individual child
- seek advice as necessary from NZSTA advisers on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise
- make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy
- ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member.

e. Monitoring

The Principal will report to the Presiding Member any allegations of child abuse within 7 days. Where there are allegations raised against the Principal, the Deputy Principal will assume responsibility to report to the Presiding Member. The Principal will provide a monthly update to the Board in the Health & Safety section of the Principals report.

f. Legislative compliance

<http://www.nzsta.org.nz/> – further information including frequently asked questions

<http://www.education.govt.nz/>

[Vulnerable Children Act 2014](#)

[Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Vulnerable Children](#) – further information and sample child protection templates

g. Key policies and procedures related to child protection include:

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|-------------------|------|--|
| Health and Safety | 2.1 | Care and Management of Children |
| | 2.2 | Safety and Health Procedure (OSH) |
| | 2.3 | Accidents, Incidence, and Illness |
| | 2.4 | Missing Child Procedure |
| | 2.5 | Referral to Child Protection |
| | 2.6 | Harassment |
| | 2.7 | Traumatic incident Management |
| | 2.7a | Physical Harm to Students/Staff |
| | 2.8 | Emergency Management |
| | 2.9 | Activities away from the school (EOTC) |
| | 2.10 | Hygiene, Security and Maintenance |
| | 2.11 | Pandemic Health plan |
| | 2.12 | Pandemic Containment Plan |
| | 2.13 | Internet Policy statement |

Signed: Andrew Green

On behalf of, and with the authority of the School Board on

Date: 30-11-22

Presiding Member: AGreen
(Name)

Next review date: November 2024