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Child Protection Policy

Section 1:

Introduction

Under the Provisions of Part 2 of the Vulnerable Children Act 2014, now covered by Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (previously the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989), Otamatea Christian School is required to have a Child Protection Policy (CPP) to set out our commitment to building a culture of child protection and to provide information on how staff are expected to respond when they have concerns about the safety and well-being of children.

Purpose

Otamatea Christian School is committed to child protection and its responsibilities under the Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

We have a responsibility to ensure that our staff can identify the signs of possible abuse or neglect and are able to take appropriate action, in a safe environment.

Scope

The Otamatea Christian School Child Protection Policy applies to all **staff employed, contracted to, or people volunteering with,** Otamatea Christian School.

Responsibilities

The Board are responsible for ensuring their staff understand and adhere to this policy. They are expected to ensure that their staff have undertaken the appropriate training associated with this policy.

Section 2:

Principles of Child Protection

1. Making the safety and well-being of children our primary concern, with the child at the centre of all decision-making when responding to suspected abuse of neglect.
2. Promoting a culture where staff feel confident to constructively challenge poor practice and raise issues of concern.
3. Recognition of the culture of the family/whanau, its importance and the rights of family/whanau to participate in decision-making about their children unless this would result in an escalation of risk to the child.
4. All staff know the can report suspected child abuse and neglect to Child, Oranga Tamariki or the Police.

Our commitments are:

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1. A commitment to work together to produce the best possible outcomes for the child and to work towards continuous improvement in child practices and all policies and initiatives are designed to promote (be inclusive of) a child protection culture.
2. A commitment to develop and maintain links with iwi, Pasifika and other cultural and community groups and to ensure that important cultural concepts (e.g. whakamanawa, whakapapa, te reo Maori, tikanga, kaitiakitanga, wairuatanga) are integrated, as appropriate, into practice.
3. A commitment to open and transparent relationships with clients/service users, including being willing to share concerns about child safety issues with the family/whanau unless this would result in an escalation of risk.
4. An organisational commitment to support all staff to work in accordance with the policy, to work with partner agencies and community organisation to ensure child protection policies are consistent and of high quality and to always comply with relevant legislative responsibilities.
5. A commitment to share information in a timely way and to discuss any concerns about the individual child with colleagues, the manager/supervisor or the designated person for child protection.
6. A commitment to meet all existing statutory and contractual obligations, including matters relating to employment.

For definitions, please refer to the Ministry of Education website, under “Child Protection Policy June 2016”

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