

Sawyers Bay School - Board of Trustees

Child Abuse Prevention, Policy



Purpose

To take all reasonable steps to protect and uphold the well-being of children at risk.
To meet the obligations of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014

Objectives

1. Any person may report directly to a member of the police or a social worker.
2. The Principal, Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal are normally the people with the responsibility for co-ordinating action on suspected abuse. Staff members report all suspected problems to the Principal (or DP/AP). If this is not appropriate the police or a social worker may be contacted directly
3. Confidentiality is maintained, with information being shared only with those who have a need to know.
4. Dated, accurate records of all relevant events are kept by those involved in cases where abuse is suspected.
5. The Principal reviews the information available and obtains further information when considered necessary.
6. When insufficient information is available, the child is kept under observation and records are kept.
7. When the abuse stems from outside the family, parents are contacted and directed to Child Protection Personnel.
8. When abuse stems from inside the family the Child Protection Team is contacted.
9. Child Protection Personnel take appropriate action and are asked to keep the Principal informed of developments.
10. Safety Checking requirements, including Police Vetting (further information included in the Police Vet Check Procedural documentation) is followed and documented as of July 1st 2015.

For detail of appropriate action, see attached:

'Action Plan where Child Abuse is Disclosed or Suspected'

"Safety Checking Requirements under the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014"

Child Protection Personnel may include some of the following as appropriate to individual circumstances: Police, Public Health Nurse, Doctor, GSE, MOVCOT, community support agencies such as Rape Crisis Centre, Churches.

Effectiveness Review

1. This policy will be reviewed annually in accordance with the Board's self-review timetable.
2. The review process will include opportunity for involvement by interested parents/caregivers and staff, in addition to Board members.
Previously developed survey formats may be used as part of this review.
3. Review results will be formally noted in Board meeting minutes, and available to the school community.

Annual Review & Confirmation process completed:

Signed.....
(Principal/BOT Chairperson)

Date