

EPSOM GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

POLICY: CHILD PROTECTION

Purpose

1. To ensure the wellbeing of children/young people in our care
2. To support families/whanau and their children/young people
3. To support staff in the protection of children/young people by identifying and appropriately responding to suspected child abuse and neglect
4. To provide a safe environment, free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse.
5. To comply with legislation: The Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 and the Privacy Act 1993

Objectives

1. The interest and protection of the child/young person is paramount in all actions, recognizing the rights of the child/young person to participate in age appropriate ways to decision making about themselves.
2. We recognize the rights of family/whanau to participate in the decision making about their children/young people.
3. We are committed to ensuring that all staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect and are able to take appropriate action, following guidelines outlined in the Abuse Disclosures policy.
4. The staff (including contractors and volunteers) will share all available information in a timely way and discuss concerns about an individual child/young person with their manager/supervisor or appropriate dean, HOD counselling or LAD Student Support.
5. The HOD Counselling or LAD Student Support will be responsible for assessing all known information about child/young person safety concerns, maintaining open relationships with the child/young person and family/whanau, unless this would result in an escalation of risk.
6. To provide professional learning to develop a culture of safe telling and so that staff are confident to identify and address unsafe practice and raise issues of concern regarding the protection and wellbeing of children/young people.
7. To support staff to work in accordance with this policy, to work with partner agencies (e.g. CYF, Police) and community organisations and to comply with relevant legislation.
8. Confidential information will be treated according to the provisions of the Privacy Act 1993

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- A culture of constructive relationships
- Safe school policy
- Health and safety policy
- EGGG code of conduct
- CYFS signs of abuse and neglect chart
- Abuse Disclosures policy
- Child abuse reporting process
- Police vetting policy

Policy Review

This policy was prepared/reviewed and presented to the Board of Trustees for endorsement on 28th June, 2016 by the Personnel Committee, and will be reviewed within 3 years in accordance with the Board's programme of self-review.