

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

GOAL

All children have the right to be a part of the kura without being subjected to abuse in any shape or form from adults who are charged with their care.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Bernard Fergusson is fully committed to:

1. Protecting children from abuse.
2. Assisting staff in dealing with suspected cases of child abuse either by a fellow member of staff or by any other adult.

OBJECTIVES

1. Assist staff to prevent, recognise and respond to abuse.
2. Ensure procedures protect staff and other adults of being suspected of child abuse.
3. Detail procedures for dealing with suspected child abuse by the child's family in the home.
4. Detail procedures for dealing with suspected child abuse by a member of staff or any other adult while at kura.
5. Report suspected child abuse to the appropriate authority e.g. Ministry for Children.

GUIDELINES

Definition:

Child abuse means the harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person (Section 2 – Children and Young Person's Amendment Act, 1994).

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is a non-accidental act, which results in physical harm to a child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is a pattern of behaviour where the child is rejected and put down. The child may be isolated, constantly degraded and criticized or negatively compared to others.

Neglect

Neglect is the most common form of abuse and although the effects may not be as obvious as physical abuse, they are just as serious leading to damaged self-esteem and a lost opportunity to thrive in the world.

Sexual

Sexual abuse is any act where an adult or a more powerful person uses a child or young person for a sexual purpose. This may be consensual or not and can happen within or outside the family. Most sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child knows or trusts.

PROCEDURES

Responding appropriately to vulnerable children

1. Responses that involve belittling, swearing at, striking or physically harming the child are forbidden.
2. When 'time out' is used, the child must not be subject to solitary confinement, immobilization or deprivation of food, drink, warmth, shelter or protection. The length of the time out period should not exceed 15 minutes.
3. In the event that a child commits an act of violence against another child and/or other children are being harmed due to the inappropriate behaviour of the child, then written records must be kept and the parents, legal guardians or caregivers must be notified of the incident as soon as possible.
4. In the event that a child's behaviour continues to cause concern, particularly when the safety of other children is threatened, the parents, legal guardians or caregivers are to be informed and an appropriate response planned.

There is suspected child abuse by adults outside of the kura

- The safety of the child always comes first. This should be borne in mind in suspected cases of child abuse.
- Staff are to treat the incident with care and sensitivity and are not to excessively or repeatedly question the child.
- Write down what the child says in their own words.
- Staff must document (including dating and signing) the cause for the suspicion and continue to accumulate and record any concerns. In these incidences, staff may find it useful to consult with fellow members of staff. These records must be kept secure and should have restricted access
- At the point of suspicion, staff must notify the principal who is obliged to develop a Child Protection Wheel (CPW). The purpose of the CPW is to support staff in monitoring the situation for the child and to jointly decide if and what further action is to be taken
- Staff are not to directly approach or confront the child's suspected abuser particularly when there is the possibility that the child may be subjected to further abuse as a result.

There is suspected child abuse by staff, or family member, or visitor on the kura site

- The safety of the child always comes first. This should be borne in mind in suspected cases of child abuse.

- Staff/witnesses must document (including dating and signing) the cause for the suspicion and continue to accumulate and record any concerns. In these incidences, staff may find it useful to consult with fellow members of staff. These records must be kept secure and should have restricted access.
- At the point of suspicion, staff must notify the principal who is obliged to develop a Child Protection Wheel (CPW). The purpose of the CPW is to support the person lodging the suspicion in monitoring the situation for the child and to jointly decide if and what further action is to be taken.
- In the event that a fellow staff member is suspected or accused of abuse, that person is to take leave with pay while the case is being investigated. He/she will be encouraged to seek legal or professional advice and support.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

- The board of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Bernard Fergusson undertakes to be familiar with laws and regulations that serve to protect children from abuse.
- The board undertakes to maintain a knowledge of agencies which have the appropriate statutory power and skills to respond effectively to child abuse.

Chairperson:



Date:

14/5/18

Reviewed:

~~2nd November 2015~~ 19/3/18