

# Napier Central School



## NAG 5.1 Health And Safety

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### Child Protection

#### Rationale

The school must have processes in place to recognise and appropriately address child abuse.

#### Purposes

- To ensure that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount.
- To provide teachers with guidelines so that they can identify signs of child abuse.
- To provide procedures for dealing with cases of child abuse and suspected child abuse.

#### Guidelines

1. Staff will be sensitive and receptive to any complaints so that children feel listened to and believed.
2. Where a teacher or third party; eg parent of a child at school, or third party of the school, is concerned about a child, they should discuss it with the principal.
3. The school will use the most appropriate agency for the type of abuse displayed.
4. The principal or nominee will be responsible for contacting any external agency.
5. Whichever agency is involved in the case will be responsible for informing parents as they have the skills to handle the situation in the most appropriate way to support the child.
6. All information/discussions will be confidential to the people involved and an appropriate person will store any recorded information in a secure place.
7. Where an interview is held with a child by an outside agency on school premises, the agency or principal may request that an adult (whom the child has confidence in) from the school be present. All people interviewing the child must provide identification and appropriate authority allowing them to interview the child. Only police, social workers from child youth and family and the lawyer for the child (appointed by the family court) will be allowed to interview children.
8. Support for staff and the child concerned will be sought from the agency involved.
9. Where a complaint of child abuse is made against a staff member the procedures set out in the teachers' collective employment contract regarding complaints against teachers will be followed.