

Mandatory Reporting Policy

AIM

To ensure children's rights to be safe are maintained and each child is protected against physical and sexual abuse, and neglect.

GUIDELINES

1. All members of the Teaching Service are mandated by law to report signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, and neglect.
2. New staff will be informed of mandatory reporting responsibilities and procedures as part of their induction procedure.
3. Staff will be reminded of mandatory responsibilities annually.
4. All concerns must be reported immediately to the Principal.
5. The Principal and/or School Community Worker will keep a record of all discussions about a student with whom there is a concern.
6. If a belief has been formed by a staff member that sexual or physical abuse has taken place a "Mandatory Reporting Information Sheet" available from the Principal must be completed and filed in the Principal's office.
7. The teacher and/or the Principal class officer will contact the Department of Human Services by telephone as soon as possible to make an official notification on: 1300 664 977 or after school hours crisis line 131278
8. Members of the Department of Health and Human Services, or associated support or intervention services that visit the school following a notification, will interview staff and children only in the presence of a Principal class officer or his/her nominee.
9. All "Mandatory Reporting Information Sheets" remain filed in the Principal's office.
10. All reports, information sheets and subsequent discussions and information are to be recorded and remain strictly confidential.
11. All incidents are to be monitored, and any subsequent signs or indications of abuse are to be reported.
12. While only mandated by law to report incidents of physical and sexual abuse, teachers are also encouraged to report incidents of emotional abuse or neglect.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was updated on June 19th 2019 and is scheduled for review in June 2020.