

# ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL TIMARU CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



*At St Joseph's School we acknowledge that Catholic Education, centred on a daily encounter with Jesus; is part of a life-long process leading to a full and rewarding life.*

## Rationale

- The safety of the child is our prime consideration at all times.

## Guidelines

- St Joseph's School is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the well-being of members, children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families.
- St Joseph's School is committed to acting at all times in the best interest of the children, young people and vulnerable adults to whom it provides a service.
- St Joseph's School is committed to dealing with child abuse, suspected abuse or disclosure of abuse in a timely fashion.
- St Joseph's School recognises that the family's primary role in caring and protecting the child should be valued and maintained. However the child's safety and well-being should have priority.
- St Joseph's School acknowledges that in cases of suspected child abuse, support for families is important.
- St Joseph's School agrees that working in accordance with this policy requires staff to be trained and supported.
- St Joseph's School will ensure any disclosures about alleged child abuse are acknowledged and appropriate action taken to ensure the safety of children who make disclosures.
- St Joseph's School is committed to complying with all relevant legislation.

The Child Protection Policy is to be used in conjunction with the following existing policies & procedures

- [Employer Responsibility Policy](#)
- [Health & Safety Policy](#)
- [Concerns & Complaints Procedure](#)
- [Appointments Procedure](#)
- [Dealing with Child Abuse Allegations Against Employees in Schools Procedure](#)
- [Harassment Procedure](#)
- [Non-custodial Parent's Procedure](#)
- [Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect in School Procedure](#)
- [Transport Safety Procedure](#)

This Child Protection Policy adheres to the following Acts:

- [Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994](#)
- [Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989](#)
- [Privacy Act 1993](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1993](#)
- [Education Act 1989/1998](#)
- [Domestic Violence Act 1995](#)
- [Care of Children Act 2004](#)
- [Employment Relations Act 2000](#)
- [Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act 1989](#)
- [Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights](#)
- [Vulnerable Children's Act 2014](#)

This policy applies to all children who are attending St Joseph's School, and to those with whom personnel come into contact in the course of their work with St Joseph's School.

It applies to staff, volunteers and management of St Joseph's School.

It also applies to any contracted personnel providing support services to families and members, (including child care), and to those providing support services to staff.

### **Definitions**

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

'Staff' is defined as those who are employed directly by, or volunteer for, St Joseph's School, as well as staff and volunteers of partner organisations whilst they are working with children and young people in the care or supervision of St Joseph's School.

### **Responsibilities**

The person, or persons, who hold the responsibility for child protection, and therefore this policy, are firstly the Principal, and in the absence of the Principal, the Learning Leaders.

All staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with this policy, it's associated procedures and protocols and abide by them.

### **Review**

The child protection policy and all related policies, will be reviewed annually.

Policy Adoption: June 2020

**Resource Manager:**  
Learning Leaders

Next Review Date: Annually