



WESLEY COLLEGE TRUST BOARD REPORTING CHILD ABUSE POLICY

RATIONALE

The Wesley College Trust Board wishes to establish proper procedures to be followed if there is a report of actual or suspected physical, emotional or sexual abuse of a student. The Trust Board will work with the Wesley College Board of Trustees to formulate consistent procedures to follow in the event that a report is received.

POLICY

1. Any suggestion by a student that (s)he has been abused must be taken seriously. The paramount principle is that the interests of the child come first. As every case is different and the circumstances surrounding abuse can be complex, emotive and sensitive, the next steps must be managed with care.
2. If a staff member is concerned about the possible abuse of a student / boarder, (s)he should immediately follow the reporting child abuse procedure.
3. The staff member contacted may discuss the disclosure with (a) member(s) of the Guidance/ Chaplaincy team:
 - to establish who will talk with the student / boarder and ensure the rights the student are upheld (noting that whoever speaks to the student / boarder becomes a potential witness if the matter comes before the Courts)
 - to establish who will contact the parents/ guardians, if the abuse is outside the family and this contact is appropriate at that point as does not place the student / boarder at risk
 - seek the support and advice of a recognised group or person working in the field of child abuse / support of children or families who have been abused for advice
 - contact the Ministry for Vulnerable Children or the Police.
4. If a decision is made to contact an outside agency, the Principal is to be informed of the concern and fully briefed on the situation before the contact is made.
5. The Principal will issue guidelines and give direction as to the application of the above policy to hostel staff.

This policy was adopted by the Wesley College Hostel Council on 10 September 2020.

This policy will be reviewed on or before the November Wesley College Hostel Council meeting 2023.

Signed: *C Telford*
Chairperson

10 September 2020