



WESLEY COLLEGE TRUST BOARD

ABUSE, HARASSMENT OR NEGLECT OF BOARDERS

RATIONALE

The Wesley College Trust Board wishes to establish proper procedures to be followed if there is a report of child abuse or suspected child abuse, harassment or serious neglect.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the implementation of Regulation 58 of the Education (Hostels) Regulations 2015.

POLICY

1. **Any report or suspicion that a boarder is experiencing abuse must be taken seriously** and subsequent action must be based on the paramount principle that the interests of the Child come first.
2. **Any concern in relation to abuse should immediately be advised to the Director of Boarding or directly to the Principal.** Where advice is given to the Hostel Parent, the Hostel Parent will notify the Director of Boarding and the Principal at the earliest opportunity.
3. **The Principal will then make a procedural decision** in relation to the disclosure, based on 'a belief on reasonable grounds', after considering the source of the information, and any relevant physical, behavioural or circumstantial evidence available at the time:
 - a. The Principal will advise the person whose actions have led to the disclosure of the allegation and ask for a response within a reasonable period of time.
 - b. If the Principal (as the Proprietor's authorised representative) considers that it is necessary to ensure that no further inappropriate behaviour towards any boarder occurs he will require the person (whether a member of the hostel's staff or boarder or other person) who may have / be abusing, harassing or seriously neglecting a boarder to stay off the hostel premises.
4. Where the Principal forms the belief that abuse, harassment or serious neglect of a boarder has taken place then written notice of this must be given to a least one of the following within 24 hours: the parents of the boarder concerned, Oranga Tamariki, or the New Zealand Police.
5. The Principal will issue guidelines and give direction as to the application of the above policy to hostel staff.

Refer: Wesley College Disciplinary Provisions
Hostel Relations Policy

This policy was adopted by the Wesley College Hostel Council on 15 November 2021
The policy will be reviewed on or before the October Hostel Council meeting 2024

Signed: Colin Telford
Chairperson

15 November 2021