



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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for responding to reports or suspicions of child abuse, ensuring the safety and well-being of students while complying with all legal and ethical obligations.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Taking Reports Seriously

1. Any suggestion by a student that they have been abused must be taken seriously. The paramount principle is that the interests of the child come first.
2. As every case is different and the circumstances surrounding abuse can be complex, emotive and sensitive, the next steps must be managed with care.

Immediate Reporting

3. If a staff member is concerned about the possible abuse of a student/boarder, they should immediately follow the Reporting Child Abuse Procedure.

Consultation & Initial Response

4. The staff member contacted may:
 - a. consult with a member of the Guidance or Chaplaincy team to:
 - i. establish who will talk with the student/boarder to ensure their rights are upheld (noting that whoever speaks to the student/boarder becomes a potential witness if the matter comes before the Courts).

- ii. determine who will contact the parents/guardians, if the abuse is outside the family, and if such contact is appropriate and does not place the student/boarder at risk.
- b. seek the support and advice of a recognised group or person working in the field of child abuse or support for children and families who have been abused
- c. contact Oranga Tamariki or the Police for advice or action.

Principal's Role

- 5. If a decision is made to contact an outside agency, the Principal must be informed of the concern and fully briefed on the situation before contact is made.
- 6. The Principal will issue guidelines and provide direction to hostel staff on the application of this policy.

RELATED LEGISLATIONS, POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- **Legislation**
 - Education (Hostels) Regulations 2005
 - Vulnerable Children's Act 2014
 - Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
 - Human Rights Act 1993
 - Privacy Act 2020
 - Employment Relations Act 2000
- **School Policies and Procedures**
 - Child Protection Policy
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Disciplinary Policy
 - Hostel Relationships Policy

This policy was adopted by the Wesley College Trust Board on 20 February 2025. This policy will be reviewed on or before the Wesley College Trust Board meeting of February 2028.

Jan Tasker

Chairperson

20 February 2025