

TAURANGA GIRLS' COLLEGE SCHOOL BOARD
OPERATIONAL POLICY 03
Child Protection

POLICY 03 CHILD PROTECTION

Outcome Statement

Tauranga Girls' College is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people. To support this commitment, we have adopted a Child Protection Policy.

Policy

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

Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse. In accordance with Section 15 of the [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#), any person in our school who believes that any child or young person has been or is likely to be harmed (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treated, abused, neglected or deprived, must follow College procedures and may also report the matter to a social worker or the local Police.

Delegations

Although ultimate accountability sits with the Board, the Board delegates responsibility to the Principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors, volunteers and parents.

Expectations and Limitations

The Principal must:

1. develop appropriate procedures to meet child safety requirements as required and appropriate to the College
2. comply with relevant legislative requirements and responsibilities
3. make this policy available on the College's website or available on request
4. ensure that every contract or funding arrangement that the College enters into requires the adoption of child protection policies where required, specifically through police vetting procedures.
5. ensure the interests and protection of the child are paramount in all circumstances
6. recognise the rights of family/whānau to participate in the decision-making about their children
7. ensure that all staff are able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect, and deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action in response
8. support all relevant staff to work in accordance with this policy to work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection procedures are understood and implemented
9. promote a culture where staff feel confident they can constructively challenge poor practice or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal
10. consult, discuss and share relevant information with the Board or designated person in line with our commitment to confidentiality and information-sharing protocols in a timely way regarding any

concerns about an individual child

11. seek advice as necessary from NZSBA advisers on employment matters and other relevant agencies where child safety issues arise
12. make available professional development, resources and/or advice to ensure all staff can carry out their roles in terms of this policy
13. ensure that this policy forms part of the initial staff induction programme for each staff member.

Teaching staff are required to maintain ethical and professional relationships with students that respect appropriate professional boundaries in accordance with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand's Code of Professional Responsibility.

Monitoring

The Principal will provide a monthly report to the Board, including any relevant child protection matters.

Relevant Legislation

[Children's Act 2014](#)

[Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#)