

Evans Bay Intermediate School

DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE POLICY

Principles

The school will act to protect the safety of students who disclose abuse or are suspected of being abused.

Procedures

1. At all times, the students' health and safety will be paramount.
2. Staff will be provided with information to help them identify the signs of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect.
3. Teachers will make any concerns known to the Principal, or Deputy Principal, who will, in consultation with staff and outside agencies, decide on the most suitable course of action. Whenever possible and appropriate, teachers will remain informed of developments and decisions.
4. In cases where it is obvious abuse has occurred or disclosure has been made, staff members should notify the Principal or Deputy Principal immediately.
5. Where the Principal or Deputy Principal believe there may be any form of abuse, he/she is bound to contact the Child, Youth and Family Services or the Police in accordance with Section 15 of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act.
6. Teachers will, on reporting disclosure to the Deputy Principal or Principal, maintain confidentiality.
7. Staff who become stressed as a result of dealing with a matter of abuse will have counselling made available.
8. Decisions about informing parents or caregivers should be made after consultation between the school and the statutory child protection service called in by them.
9. Keeping Ourselves Safe will be part of the school's Health Plan.

Disclosure of abuse by an Employee

1. Subject to the overriding safety of the child, the staff member will be informed by the Principal or Deputy of the allegation as soon as possible.
2. The staff member will be encouraged to seek appropriate advice and support.
3. The school will seek the advice of NZSTA.
4. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will be informed.

Reviewed: 4th March 2009