

ST MARY'S SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - N.A.G. 5

RATIONALE

St Mary's School Special Character Values and Philosophy will support the school in its processes of identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect, and the vulnerability of children, in a timely and appropriate way.

GUIDELINES

1. St Mary's School recognises that there is increasing awareness that abuse and neglect of children can and does happen and is determined to make a positive difference to this problem.
2. St Mary's School is committed to protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect through its actions, activities and staff.
3. This policy provides our School with a broad framework and expectations to protect vulnerable children, including (but not limited to) staff behaviours in response to actual or suspected child abuse or neglect.
4. This policy recognises the important role and responsibility of all of our staff in the protection of children by identifying and responding to suspected child abuse or neglect and appropriately responding to concerns about the wellbeing of a child.
5. All staff (including contractors and volunteers) have a responsibility to discuss any child protection concerns, including suspected abuse or neglect, with their manager/supervisor or the designated person for child protection.
6. The Principal/Senior Staff or the designated person for child protection have a responsibility to ensure that the appropriate authority is notified when a staff member has a belief that a child has been, or is likely to be, abused or neglected. This extends to ensuring that all known information about the child, young person and their family/whānau is shared in full with the appropriate authority, to determine the most appropriate response.
7. This policy is to protect all children staff may encounter – including siblings, the children of adults accessing services and any other children encountered by staff.