

Ruru Specialist School Procedure

Child Protection

Ruru Board of Trustees provides a safe physical and emotional environment for students/ākonga and staff.

Health and Safety including the emotional safety of students/ākonga and staff, is at the centre of all teaching and learning within Ruru Specialist School. Staff implement procedures which actively and positively support all students/ākonga to reach their potential and to manage themselves effectively.

Purpose:

The school is committed to the prevention of child harm and neglect and to the protection of all children.

All staff will be familiar with processes so that they can report signs of harm in line with the Principles of the [Children Act 2014](#) and the [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#).

Access to the guide <http://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/VCAPracticalGuide.pdf>

Objectives and Procedures:

1. In line with section 15 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, any person in our school who believes that a child or young person has been, or is likely to be, ill-treated, harmed, (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), neglected, or deprived, or who has concerns about the well-being/hauora of a child or young person must follow school procedures and report the matter to Oranga Tamariki 0508 326 459 or the local police.
2. Principal will ensure that all staff are able to [identify the signs and symptoms of potential harm and neglect](#) and deal with disclosures by children and [allegations against staff members](#) and are able to take [appropriate action in response](#).
3. If the disclosure is from a student/ākonga at one of our Outreach Schools, staff member to immediately pass the information to Outreach School Principal. Ruru Principal to be informed that this has taken place.
4. The school adheres to student/ākonga confidentiality. Staff discuss concerns only with the Principal or appropriate Deputy Principal (Senior or Junior School) in the Principal's absence. The Principal should inform the Board Chairperson. Recorded information is stored in a secure place.
5. The Principal will follow the process for [Reporting Child Harm and Neglect](#).
6. The Principal will ensure that [Safe Recruitment of Staff](#) process is followed when employing new staff.
7. In response to the Family Violence Act 2018 and Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 the School will use safe and appropriate information sharing to allow for better co-ordinated responses to assess and manage family violence risk. Safe and appropriate information sharing will ensure everyone working with tamariki can collaborate in the best interests of the child. See our [Information Sharing](#) Process.

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