

**ST PIUS X SCHOOL
POLICY DOCUMENT**

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
(formerly known as "Reporting Suspected Abuse")

RATIONALE

People who work in schools are often the first adults to become aware of instances of child abuse *and neglect*.

PURPOSES

1. *To ensure the welfare and interests of the child is the paramount consideration.*
2. *To provide procedures for dealing with cases of current or historical abuse.*
3. To provide support for students in cases of suspected abuse.

GUIDELINES

1. The best interests of the student/s are paramount; therefore suspicions of abuse should be reported.
2. Legal protection is given to the informant if this is done in 'good faith' and without malicious intent. *Item 8.16 CYPF Act (1989)*.
3. Decisions should be made on the basis of objective observation and consultation.
4. Records should be factual with dates and times included. Speculation should not be made as to how or why events occurred. All records must be given to the Principal.
5. At all stages confidentiality and objectivity must be maintained.
6. The procedure that should be followed is in the attached document.
7. A student's initial disclosure of suspected abuse is a critical moment and must be handled carefully.
8. The Principal has the responsibility for coordinating action and reporting to the police or CYF cases of suspected abuse.
9. Re informing students, parents/guardians/caregivers:
 - (i) If someone in the child's home situation is suspected the Principal should first report and seek advice from the police or CYF.
 - (ii) *Follow the procedures outlined in "An Interagency Guide to Breaking the Cycle - let's stop child abuse together" – pages 30-34 (revised 2001).*
10. Information should be fed back to people who can support the student and the teacher.
11. *All staff should carefully read the CYF book, in "An Interagency Guide to Breaking the Cycle - let's stop child abuse together" – pages 30-34 (revised 2001).*
12. The following procedures must be adhered to when dealing with suspected abuse.

Procedure to be used when dealing with Suspected Abuse

- * Changes noted in behaviour
- or
- * Adult recognises signs
- or
- * Adult suspects abuse
- or
- * Student tells adult

- * Staff member discusses suspicions in confidence with a Senior staff member.

- * Notes made of current concern.

- * Dates, times of suspected abuse are noted.

- * Any other details of previous concerns or injuries are noted.

- * Staff member and Senior teacher both consult with Principal.

- * Any referrals re: Sexual abuse, *physical abuse or neglect* must be referred to the Principal immediately concerns come to light.

- * All notes made about the concern must be given to the Principal at this point.

- 13. The Principal is ultimately responsible for any referrals to *CYF*, *Police* or outside agencies.
- 14. All suspicions of child abuse *or neglect* should be reported immediately, following the appropriate procedure.

Approved: September 2014

Signed: _____

Review Date: September 2017