

MANDATORY REPORTING POLICY

RATIONALE

All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe. As teachers, we have a legal and moral responsibility to respond to serious incidences involving abuse and neglect of the children with whom we have contact, and to report instances that we believe involve physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

AIM

To ensure that children's rights to be safe are maintained and each child is protected against physical and sexual abuse, and neglect.

IMPLEMENTATION

- All members of the Teaching Service are mandated by law to report signs or risks of harm, disclosures of abuse or neglect, or a reasonable belief a student is subjected to sexual abuse or physical harm.
- New staff will be informed of mandatory reporting responsibilities and procedures as part of their induction procedure.
- Staff will be reminded of mandatory responsibilities annually.
- All concerns must be reported immediately to the Principal, or in his/her absence, the Assistant Principal.
- The Principal will keep a record of all discussions about a student with whom there is a concern.
- If a belief has been formed by a staff member that a mandatory report must be made, a "Mandatory Reporting Information Sheet" available from the Principal must be completed and filed in the Principal's office.
- The teacher and/or the Principal will contact the Department of Human Services by telephone as soon as possible to make an official notification on: (03) 8765 5444 or after school hours crisis line 131278.
- The police must be contacted when allegations of physical assault, sexual assault or sexual harassment occur.
- Members of Department of Human Services, or associated support or intervention services that visit the school following a notification, will interview staff and children only in the presence of a Principal or his/her nominee.
- All "Mandatory Reporting Information Sheets" remain filed in the Principal's office.
- All reports, information sheets and subsequent discussions and information are to be recorded and remain strictly confidential.
- All incidents to be monitored, and any subsequent signs or indications of abuse are also to be reported.
- While only mandated by law to report incidents of physical and sexual abuse, and neglect; teachers are also encouraged to report incidents of emotional abuse or neglect.
- Students, who disclose to staff a desire to harm themselves or others, must be reported by staff to the principal immediately.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual mandate review cycle.

CERTIFICATION

This policy was adopted at the School Council Meeting held at Woodlands Primary School, October 2016

WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

10 Gum Nut Drive, Langwarrin 3910

Phone 97888 333 Fax 97888 300 Principal: Jim Wilson