

# MAHANA SCHOOL PROCEDURE

## CHILD ABUSE

- As soon as any abuse is suspected, the staff member will inform the principal and discreetly discuss the concern. All proceedings are to be handled in the strictest confidence.
- In the case of a report from a third party to the school, the first course of action will be to direct the third party to a helping agency becoming involved. The school may become involved at a later stage.
- It is expected that the board will facilitate training for all staff to help them to identify suspected abuse and / or neglect and to be able to respond appropriately. It is recommended that training needs be identified and planned regularly in consultation with staff.
- To assist with the implementation of a training policy, the board should liaise with CYFS and the NZ Police. Further support can be provided by; Guidance Counsellors, Education psychologists attached to the Group Special Education.
- The schools will provide preventative education in their delivery of the Health and Physical Well-Being national curriculum. Students will have access to information about child abuse and appropriate responses to it through the relevant parts of this curriculum.
- A staff member will be nominated as a safety advocate for the child or young person.
- Support mechanisms are to be put in place by the boards for the teacher who initiated the activity.

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