

# Pakuranga College

## Child Protection Policy

**Date Implemented:** August 2024

**Next Review Date:** August 2027

Our Child Protection Policy applies to any student at Pakuranga College who is defined as a child under the Children's Act 2014 (Part 1, s. 5). Where this policy refers to a "student" or "students" it means a child attending Pakuranga College. Concerns about students who are 18 years and over are directed to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki, or the New Zealand Police.

### Child protection framework

As required by the Children's Act 2014 (s. 14), we have adopted this Child Protection Policy as our framework for student safety at Pakuranga College. This policy contains provisions for identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

### Supporting student safety and responding to concerns

We support the wellbeing/hauora of our students by establishing positive learning environments and promoting respectful relationships between students and staff. We have a designated child protection person, who is the primary point of contact for concerns about students, including concerns about abuse or neglect. At Pakuranga College, this person is the Head of Guidance & Hauora. In situations of concern, we aim to work together and intervene early to support student safety and wellbeing.

We foster a safe atmosphere for our students to speak up if they feel that something is wrong or that they are being mistreated. We may use programmes to help students identify healthy and unhealthy relationships.

### Concern response overview

With respect to the protection of a student, all staff at the school must:

#### If there is immediate danger to a student:

- Phone the Police on 111.
- If possible, protect the immediate safety of the student.
- As soon as possible, inform a Deputy Principal and the designated child protection person.
- Record any actions taken and provide a copy to the designated child protection person.

#### If there is no immediate danger to a student:

- Record a factual account of any concerns that have come up, or any disclosures that are made.
- For any concerns, consult the designated child protection person.
- The designated child protection person will review and determine an appropriate course of action.
- All referrals to Oranga Tamariki will be managed by the designated child protection person.
- Decisions about informing parents or caregivers about suspected or actual child abuse or neglect are made after consultation between the designated child protection person and Oranga Tamariki.
- Where a serious incident has occurred or a Report of Concern (ROC) is reported to an external agency, a mandatory report to the Principal must also be made by the designated child protection person.
- All decisions are recorded in the Hauora Case Management System by the Hauora staff member (e.g. counsellor, social worker) case-managing the referral, with any decision-making processes explained.

### **Child protection roles and responsibilities**

The Board is responsible for ensuring all staff employed or engaged by the school are safety checked in line with the Children's Act 2014 before their appointment. Existing staff are safety checked every three years after the last safety check was completed.

All staff are required to report concerns about student wellbeing and safety occurring both outside and inside the school to the designated child protection person (the Head of Guidance & Hauora). The designated child protection person is available and accessible to all staff and has experience and training in responding to child protection concerns. The child protection person will ensure that the Principal is notified of all referrals to Oranga Tamariki.

### **Child protection partnerships**

Staff members work with relevant contacts within the school to best support students and seek guidance from external agencies as appropriate. Unless there is immediate danger, staff members do not act alone on their concerns and must consult with the designated child protection person.

Pakuranga College works with Oranga Tamariki and the New Zealand Police where appropriate and liaises with partner agencies and community organisations to support early interventions with the goal of the safe and effective reporting and management of child abuse. In all circumstances, Pakuranga College will apply the privacy considerations required by the Privacy Act 2020.

### **External agency interviews**

If an external agency such as the New Zealand Police or Oranga Tamariki asks to interview a student on school grounds, the school ensures the rights of the student are upheld.

If Oranga Tamariki contacts the school to interview a student, that student has the right to be supported by a Deputy Principal or Hauora staff member. Interviews and visits to the school by Oranga Tamariki will be managed by the designated child protection person. The school's focus will be on the safety and wellbeing of the student.

The New Zealand Police may contact the school to question a student. The Principal must be informed about any such request. Students in this situation have the right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer. If a student who is under 18 is interviewed by the Police, a nominated adult can support them.

### **Child protection review**

We acknowledge that child protection is everyone's responsibility, and we share and review our Child Protection Policy and procedures with our wider school community. Our designated child protection person and other relevant staff are involved in reviewing policies and procedures related to child protection.

The Principal assures the Board that the Child Protection Policy is in use, is being implemented correctly, and is publicly available.



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Member/Board Chair

Date: 05/08/2024