

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Don Buck School aims to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and security of all children by practising open and accountable child-centred decision-making. We recognise the importance of involving family/whānau in decision-making about their children, and will involve children in decision-making about themselves in age-appropriate ways. We acknowledge that child protection is everyone's responsibility and we promote our child protection policies to our school community.

"Child", in the context of our school's child protection policies, means a child or young person aged under 18 years (who is not married or in a civil union) – Children's Act 2014.

### **Sharing information**

We share information with appropriate agencies if sharing that information will protect or improve the safety, health, or wellbeing of a child. In all circumstances, Don Buck School is carefully guided by privacy considerations in the sharing of information. By law, we can share information with the police and Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.

### **Student and staff safety**

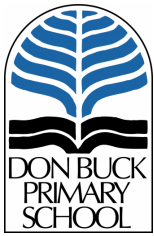
We take concerns about the safety of students seriously, and respond to them quickly. Prevention and early intervention are important, and we use the least intrusive intervention possible to protect vulnerable children.

We promote a culture where staff feel confident that they can challenge poor practice, or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal. See Protected Disclosure.

When addressing a formal complaint, the school does not use settlement agreements where these contradict a culture of child protection. See Investigate a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation.

### **Child protection policy requirements**

Schools are subject to the Children's Act 2014, and must have child protection policies which are readily available. As required by the Act, child protection practices are incorporated into our policies and procedures. Don Buck School has a designated person responsible for child protection policies. Our designated person is the principal, and is the primary point of contact for concerns about a child, including concerns about abuse or neglect. Our child protection policies apply to school staff, contractors, and volunteers.



## **External agency interviews**

If Oranga Tamariki – Ministry of Children contacts the school to interview a child, that child has the right to a support person to sit alongside them if they wish. This support person (e.g. guidance counsellor, teacher, or principal) focuses on the safety and wellbeing of the child.

The police may contact the school to question a student – that student has the right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer. If the student is under 18 and is interviewed by police they can nominate an adult to support them. See Youth Law: Rights with the Police.

## **Reviewing our policies and procedures related to child protection**

Key child protection policies and procedures are reviewed at least once every three years as part of the School Policy review cycle. Our school's designated person for child protection is involved in reviewing any policies and procedures related to child protection.

The principal assures the board yearly on the implementation of key child protection policies/procedures.

## **Legislation**

Children's Act 2014

Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017

Privacy Act 2020

Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

## **Resources**

- Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children: [Children's Teams](#)
- Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children: [Safer Organisations, Safer Children](#) (Guidelines for child protection policies to build safer organisations)
- Child Matters: [Child Protection Policy](#) (offers child protection training and a policy advisory service)
- Ministry of Health: [Is that Child OK?](#)
- Safeguarding Children: [Online courses and seminars](#)
- United Nations Human Rights: [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)