



## Mount Roskill Intermediate School

### Policy: Child Protection

#### Statement of Intent:

The well-being and safety of children is a paramount concern at Mount Roskill Intermediate School. This includes the prevention of child abuse or maltreatment.

#### Definitions

Child abuse refers to the harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill treatment, neglect or deprivation of any child

*Physical abuse* - any acts that may result in physical harm of a child or young person.

*Sexual abuse* - any acts that involve forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not they are aware of what is happening.

*Emotional abuse* - any act or omission that results in adverse or impaired psychological, social, intellectual and emotional functioning or development.

*Neglect* - the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, leading to adverse or impaired physical or emotional functioning or development.

*Family violence* may be witnessed/experienced by children and involve physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

#### **The Mount Roskill Intermediate School Board of Trustees will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:**

1. A school-wide culture of child protection that requires staff to have knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to work together to effectively implement policies
2. The school is a physically and emotionally safe place
3. Measures are in place for prevention and response, including vetting

#### **Policy Statement**

1. It is the right of every child to be safe at school
2. The interest and welfare of the child will be the primary consideration when any action is taken about suspected abuse
3. The School supports the role of statutory agencies in the investigation of abuse
4. The School will have a process for the identification and reporting of suspected abuse or maltreatment - All suspected cases will be reported following this process
5. The Schools Employment and Personnel Policy and Appointments Procedure will include vetting and screening.
6. The School will have a process for the vetting of volunteers and contractors
7. The School is committed to maintaining and increasing staff awareness of how to prevent, recognise and respond to abuse through appropriate training
8. The School is committed to raising student awareness of strategies to keep safe and how to seek help
9. Clear guidelines on confidentiality and information sharing will be in place
10. Policy is communicated to the wider school community

Approved by BOT 16 / 05 /2016

Board of Trustees Chairperson: