

CHILD PROTECTION REPORTING POLICY

Rationale

All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe. All staff have a legal and moral responsibility to report significant incidents involving physical, sexual, emotional abuse and/or neglect of the children in their care.

Aims

- To ensure that a child's right to be safe is maintained and that each child is protected against physical and sexual abuse, and neglect.

Implementation

1. All concerns should be reported immediately to the Principal or the Assistant Principal.
2. All members of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) are mandated by law to report to the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Child Protection, when a belief has been formed that a child is in need of protection from sexual abuse or physical injury and that the child's parents/guardians are unable or unwilling to protect the child.
3. All adults are now required to disclose to Victoria Police if they know, or reasonably believe that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under the age of 16 years.
4. Reports must be made as soon as practicable after forming the belief.
5. The staff or Principal/Assistant Principal will contact DHHS by telephone as soon as possible to make an official notification.
6. All reports and subsequent discussions and information are to be recorded and remain strictly confidential.
7. Staff do not require the permission of parents, carers or guardians to make a report to DHHS (Child Protection / Child First), nor are they required to tell the parents, carers or guardians that they have done so.
8. All incidents will be monitored and any subsequent signs or indications of abuse or neglect will be reported.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's three year review cycle.