

## 502 Child Protection

### Rationale

All children are valued, respected and are safe from any form of abuse

### Purposes

1. To ensure that children have a safe and respectful learning environment.
2. An environment is fostered that enables children to comfortably discuss issues with teachers.
3. That if a child at Ōmata School is abused, shows signs of abuse or abuse is disclosed, the school has a clear legal responsibility to disclose to the appropriate agency and respond in a supportive, appropriate manner.

### Guidelines

1. Ōmata School has programmes as part of the health curriculum to educate children about many aspects of health and well-being.
2. Teachers have the training and resources to identify and respond to children's needs with regard to the wider aspect of their learning and safety.
3. That adults in the school environment are sensitive to children so that children are able to feel heard.
4. If abuse is identified/disclosed, safety of the child/children is paramount, the Principal is informed, the school interacts with legally obligated agencies and where appropriate, discussed with parents to ensure the most support for the child/children. All suspected and actual cases are acted on and documented.  
- Refer to 502a Procedure Child Protection
5. Parents are advised that they must have a clear police vet when they apply to assist as parent helps or on any school activity where they may be supervising students.
6. Any person employed or engaged by the school that will work with children are safety checked as required under the child protection legislation before appointment.

Ratified by Board: 20 June 2005

Reviewed: 26 October 2022

Signed for B.O.T. \_\_\_\_\_

