



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure South Otago High School identifies and responds appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect, and to understand our role in keeping children safe. This Child Protection Policy confirms the commitment of SOHS to the protection of children.

Scope

SOHS recognises that all staff and Trustees have a full and active part to play in protecting students from harm. Overall responsibility, implementation and review of this policy rests with the Principal.

This policy covers all staff of SOHS who have direct or indirect contact with children. This includes those staff, paid or voluntary, employed directly by SOHS, contractors and those professionals contracted or invited to provide services to children in the care of SOHS. This includes teaching and non-teaching staff. This policy covers the Board of Trustees and their responsibilities in the safety and wellbeing of children.

The Policy

South Otago High School will have procedures that meets all relevant government legislation dealing with the protection of vulnerable students. This procedures document will include

1. The responsibilities of the staff (as defined in this policy)
2. The role of the principal
3. The role of the designated person for child protection
4. The role of the Board of Trustees
5. The procedures to be taken by staff when child abuse or neglect is suspected.
6. The importance of confidentiality in dealing with the suspicion, disclosure or knowledge of abuse.
7. The safe recruitment and training of staff including safe work practices.
8. The procedure for dealing with allegations of inappropriate actions by staff members.

In addition to its responsibilities outlined in the procedures SOHS will also

- explore the implications of this policy for staff training
- ensure staff are appropriately trained in issues of child protection.
- ensure staff are aware of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures documents.

Review

This Policy and the associated procedures will be reviewed regularly in the light of operational experience and in line with changes in legislation and associated policies.

Signed  (Chairperson)

Written and Submitted 30th June 2016

Reviewed March 2020

Next review date March 2021