



## POLICY

## CHILD PROTECTION

### RATIONALE

Ensuring the well-being and safety of tamariki, including the prevention of child abuse or maltreatment, is a paramount goal of Yendarra School. The board is responsible under the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 to protect and improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children at Yendarra School.

### PURPOSE

Yendarra School aims to ensure the safety and security of tamariki by practicing open and accountable child-centred decision-making. We recognise the importance of involving 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.

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

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

When addressing a formal complaint, the school does not use settlement agreements where these contradict a culture of child protection.

We share information with appropriate agencies if sharing that information will protect or improve the safety, health, or well-being of a child. By law, we can share information with the police and Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.

Schools are subject to the Vulnerable Children 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. Yendarra 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.

### **Key child protection related policies and procedures include:**

- Behaviour Management
- Physical Restraint

- Sexual Harassment for Staff and Children
- Sexual and Physical Abuse of Children
- Bullying
- Pastoral Care
- Education outside Classroom
- Formal Complaints
- Staff
- Protected Disclosures
- Appointment Procedural Statement

### **Legislation**

- Vulnerable Children Act 2014
- Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017