

# NAG 5—Health and Safety

## Child and Youth Protection

### Rationale

The Northern Health School places the well-being of children and young people as its paramount concern and is committed to acting in their best interests at all times. The School is also required to ensure the well-being of students, so they thrive, belong and achieve, in accordance with the following legislation:

- Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (Children's and Young People's Well-being Act 1989)
- Human Rights Act 1993
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (ratified in NZ 1993)
- Children's Act 2014, and the
- Privacy Act 1993
- Education and Training Act 2020

This policy covers all children and young people who interact with the Northern Health School, whether an enrolled student, present during home visit or a visitor to premises.

### Purpose

1. To support the implementation of systems, processes and learning to foster a safe and secure environment.
2. To enable staff to respond and act promptly, responsibly and in the best interests of the student when any staff person in the school believes that any child or youth has been, or is likely to be, harmed, ill-treated, abused, neglected, or deprived.
3. This policy directly links Student Disclosures Policy.

### Guidelines

- a) Student safety and wellbeing is always the paramount consideration. Child and youth protection is everyone's responsibility and their safeguarding requires the constant co-operation of the entire School community.
- b) Procedures are in place to meet child and youth protection requirements. These procedures are accessible to all staff through the Procedures Document.
- c) School contract and funding arrangements take child and youth protection into account.
- d) The rights of family and whanau to participate in the decision-making about their children are recognised.
- e) It is the responsibility of all staff to be vigilant, have the knowledge and be able to identify the signs and symptoms of potential or actual abuse and neglect, vulnerability factors, and deal with disclosures by children and allegations against staff members and are able to take appropriate action immediately in response to ensure that the concerns are taken seriously and reported.
- f) Staff will work with partner agencies and organisations to ensure child protection policies are understood and implemented. The School will ensure that child and youth protection training is available to all staff.
- g) School recruitment policies and practices are in accordance with the Children's Act 2014, and staff inductions include child and youth protection.

- h) Relevant information is shared and discussed in a timely manner with the Board or designated person, in accordance with the School's commitment to confidentiality and information sharing.

Adopted	<u>December 2022</u>
Presiding Member	<u></u>
Review Date	<u>December 2025</u>

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy

- Child/ young person / youth is any person under the age of 18 years
- Staff are those who are employed at any of the Northern Health School sites.  
This includes teaching staff who may only be teaching at Northern Health School on a temporary basis (relievers), as well as permanent teaching staff.
- Child abuse is harming (whether physically, emotionally, sexually), ill-treatment, neglect, or deprivation of any child or young person [as defined by Oranga Tamariki Act, 1989]

Further definitions of abuse/ neglect are provided in the procedures document.