

NAG 5—Health and Safety

Student Disclosures Policy

Rationale

Schools are required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students. This policy guides the Board, principal and staff in the event of student disclosures of harm, self-harm, abuse, neglect or deprivation.

Purpose

To guide staff to respond and act promptly, responsibly and in the best interests of the student when there is cause to believe that a student at NHS is the subject of abuse or neglect.

Guidelines

- a) The student's safety should always be the paramount consideration.
- b) All persons working within the school should, at all times, be supportive and respectful of students, including acceptance of a student's disclosure.
- c) The principal or nominated person in charge shall follow the procedures outlined in the NHS policies and procedures. Staff will be knowledgeable about and action procedures for reporting student disclosures or suspected abuse.
- d) Disclosures and suspicions of abuse should immediately be reported to the principal or nominated person in charge, or other staff member and a Board member if the allegation concerns the principal.
- e) If the disclosure is in relation to a staff member, then the Board must be advised.
- f) The school will protect staff against the potential of false allegations through the Education Council's Code of Professional Responsibility and Standards for the Teaching Profession, role modelling good practice, robust recruitment policies and proactively encouraging a team approach to all activities.
- g) Advice is sought from agencies and advisers especially in regard to employment matters.
- h) This policy directly links to Child and Youth Protection.

Adopted December 2022

Presiding Member _____

Review Date December 2025