

# Ross Intermediate School

TE KURA WAENGA O ROSS

## **POLICY STATEMENT - DRAFT**

### **5.3.1 Attachment – Response to Abuse & Neglect Procedure**

The welfare of a student is paramount in all dealings around this policy. We act in the best interest of the student at all time.

#### **Key Principles:**

1. Once a disclosure is made do not enter into an Interview situation with the child.
2. Do not make promises to the child.
3. All disclosures, big or small, must be reported to Senior Management. If a child is upset by this, simply say that it is your job to share the information. Assure the student that their privacy will be respected and we are working in their best interests and support them.
4. If you suspect abuse or neglect discuss with Senior Management before engaging with the student. Any suspicion needs to be reported.

#### **Purpose:**

1. If the abuse or neglect is around food or clothing communication and support for the parents will be initiated. Support may include uniform being financed through the school.
2. If the abuse is of a verbal, physical or sexual nature then engagement with appropriate agencies must be engaged.
3. Direct contact with parents over these situations would be very rare. We prefer that appropriately trained professional conduct this work.
4. If students are to be questioned at school it will be by Senior Management with the classroom teacher present (if required).
5. Any interview conducted by an agency outside the school during school hours will require a School representative present. This will normally be a member of the Senior Management Team.

IN ALL CASES WERE ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS SUSPECTED OR DISCLOSED THE PRINCIPAL OR SENIOR MANAGEMENT WILL LIASE WITH AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE

**UPDATED:** August 2011