



ELIZABETH EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Child Protection Policy

Definition

Elizabeth East School fully recognizes its responsibilities for child protection. Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers who are working in the school. This also includes any trade workers on our site.

This school recognizes that staff, often the class teacher is the first stage in the pastoral care of the child.

All staff are mandated notifiers and must contact the Child Abuse Report Line as required by the Child Protection Act if they have any reasonable suspicion of child abuse.

Any staff member or volunteer who has any urgent concerns regarding issues of abuse or neglect may, in addition to reporting, discuss these with the School Counsellor, Principal or a member of the Leadership Team. These people can also support them in making the notification if they need.

Staff is trained to observe outward signs of:

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Serious harm
- Failure to thrive
- Developing changes of behaviour.

Child Protection is:

This policy is based upon the following principles:

- The safety of children / young people is the paramount consideration.
- Children are the most vulnerable members of our society.
- Children need to know and believe that they have the right to feel safe at all times.
- Children are entitled to basic human rights regardless of special needs, cultural, or socio-economic factors.
- Children are people in their own right deserving of respect, care and protection.
- Children are entitled to the support of a person to act as an advocate on their behalf. (DECS policy)

All staff and volunteers will:

- Be fully trained in Mandatory Notification with yearly updates.
- Have Police Checks.
- Contact Child Abuse Report Line 131478 with their concerns.

All students will:

All students will be trained in developing their personal safety skills through:

- Child Protection Curriculum
- Whole school Anti-bullying program.
- Social Skills programs
- Knowing the Kids Help Line phone number 1800 55 1800

Categories for concern are:

Neglect

Neglect is occurring when a parent or caregiver fails to provide a child or young person with the basic needs such as:

- Love
- Food
- Shelter
- Adequate supervision
- School attendance
- Medical care.

Physical Abuse

Physical injury is when an adult or older person deliberately injures a child such as:

- Burning
- Shaking
- Beating
- Scalding
- Other physical injury
- Exposure to non- prescription / illegal drugs.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual Abuse is occurring when an adult (or someone bigger or older than the child) involves the child / young person in sexual activity by using his or her power over the child, or taking advantage of a child's trust.

Often:

- Tricks
- Bribes
- Threats
- Physical force can be used to make a child / young person participate in the activity.

Child sexual abuse is not just intercourse.

It includes:

- Voyeurism
- Exhibitionism
- Touching or fondling of sexual body parts
- Oral sex
- Sexual intercourse.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is when a child is deprived of:

- Love
- Affection
- Attention.

Or when an adult continually speaks to a child in:

- A negative or hurtful way
- A way that makes them feel worthless.

Abusive behaviours include:

- Excessive yelling
- Unreasonable demands
- Excessive criticism
- Belittling
- Teasing
- Ignoring
- Humiliating
- Demeaning punishment
- Witnessing domestic violence
- Holding back praise or affection.

Governing Council has ratified this policy in February 2006. It has been reviewed and passed in April 2007.