

Yarrunga Primary School

MANDATORY REPORTING POLICY

October 2016



RATIONALE

- All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe. As teachers, we have a legal and moral responsibility to respond to serious incidences involving abuse and neglect of the children with whom we have contact, and to report instances that we believe involve physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

AIM:

- To ensure that the right of every child to be safe is maintained and each child is protected against physical and sexual abuse, and neglect.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- All members of the Teaching Service are mandated by law to report signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, and neglect. Teachers are also encouraged to report incidents of emotional abuse or neglect.
- All staff will be reminded of their mandatory reporting responsibilities and procedures each year, and will be required to complete the Mandatory Reporting eLearning module annually. Upon successful completion, each teacher must send their certificate to the Principal/Business Manager so that their name may be added to the school's Mandatory Reporting register.
- All concerns must be reported immediately to the Principal, or in his/her absence, the Leading Teacher
- The Principal/Leading Teacher will keep a record of all discussions about a student with whom there is a concern.
- The teacher and/or the Principal class officer will contact the Department of Human Services by telephone as soon as possible to make an official notification on:

1300 360391 or after school hours crisis line 131278

In the event that the Department of Human Services does not contact the teacher directly within 48 hours, the teacher is responsible for making contact themselves.

- Members of the Department of Human Services, or associated support or intervention services that visit the school following a notification, will interview staff and children only in the presence of a Principal class member or his/her nominee.
- All reports, information sheets and subsequent discussions and information are to be recorded and remain strictly confidential.
- All incidents to be monitored, and any subsequent signs or indications of abuse are also to be reported.
- Students who disclose to staff a desire to harm themselves or others must be reported by staff to the principal.

EVALUATION:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.

REVIEW: 2020

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: 18th October 2016