



# NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O NGĀMOTU

<b>Title</b>	<b>ABUSE EXTERNAL TO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>Reference Number</b>	F602
<b>Section</b>	Students
<b>Written By</b>	NPBHS Policy Committee
<b>Checked By</b>	NPBHS Headmaster
<b>Approved By</b>	NPBHS Board of Trustees
<b>Issue Date</b>	24 August 2000
<b>Review Date</b>	November 2027
<b>Associated Policies</b>	
<b>Associated Procedures</b>	
<b>Associated References</b>	<u>Vulnerable Children Act 2014</u> <u>Oranga Tamariki Act 1989</u> Health and Physical Well-Being curriculum

## RATIONALE :

Where there is evidence of/or disclosure of abuse (physical, verbal, sexual and/or neglect) outside the authority of the school it can be detected and dealt with in order to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

## PURPOSE :

1. To provide procedures for dealing with suspected and reported cases of neglect or abuse that occur external to the school environment.
2. To ensure compliance with the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 and the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

## GUIDELINES :

1. Adults should be receptive to pupils so that they feel listened to and considered if they disclose abuse that occurs outside the school.
2. Adults should also be sensitive to signs which may indicate abuse, such as:
  - Visible injuries - bruises, burns, broken bones, bites.
  - Failure to thrive
  - Physical signs of neglect
  - Fear of situations or people
  - School failure
  - Anxiety and depression
  - Social withdrawal
  - Low self-esteem
  - Lying, stealing
  - Running away, defiance
  - Attempted suicide
  - Total conformity
  - Substance abuse including alcohol
  - Self-destructive behaviour



- Self-harm
  - Sexual promiscuity/prostitution
  - Eating disorders
  - Failure to learn / poor concentration
  - Inconsistent attendance/reluctance to go home
  - Truancy
  - No, or inadequate school lunch
  - Withdrawn, depressed,
  - Overactive, aggressive
  - Violent or unusual play
  - Disordered or few peer relationship
  - Graffiti / fire lighting
3. Contact people for students are any staff member that a student feels comfortable with but are likely to include one of the following :
- Huia Teachers
  - Deans/Senior House Leaders
  - The School Nurse
  - The Health Nurse
  - The School Chaplain
  - Deputy Headmaster(s) / Senior Leadership Team
  - Director of Boarding
  - Matrons
  - The Guidance Counsellors
  - Hostel Masters
4. The role of the person to whom a student discloses abuse that is occurring outside the school environment is to pass this information without judgement, to one of the members of the Senior Leadership Team, who, if not the Headmaster, will inform the Headmaster. If immediate danger or safety is an issue, that staff member must act with urgency.
5. The immediate reporting of suspected abuse external to the school environment is mandatory.
6. The Headmaster, will after immediate discussion with the Guidance Counsellor, decide on the appropriate course of action.
7. The Headmaster, or his designate, will document any objective observations and anything said by the student. It is important to remember :
- Documentation may subsequently be used in court as evidence for either side.
  - Avoid making judgements, simply record the facts.
  - Interviewing of suspected abuse victims is a specialised procedure, and as such will be left to those who are trained in such techniques.
  - When a student is interviewed at school by an external agency – eg – Police, Oranga Tamariki, the Guidance Counsellor OR a suitable adult MUST be present.
8. The Headmaster will ensure notification to Oranga Tamariki or the Police and await further contact before taking any action.
9. The welfare of the student must be paramount at all times.
10. Development units will be taught as part of the Health and Physical Well-Being curriculum to increase pupils' assertive skills in dealing with uncomfortable situations, and to help raise the teachers' consciousness of the issues.
11. Staff training on the procedures in dealing with such an issue will be undertaken on a regular basis.
12. Members of the Guidance Team and Senior Staff will be available for advice for teachers who have concerns