

## **5.13 STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY (Abridged)**

### **PURPOSE/RATIONALE**

To ensure that all students at Dilworth School are free from emotional, physical, sexual abuse, neglect or deprivation (Section 2 Oranga Tamariki Act 1989) the school as part of their obligations seeks to promote a culture of awareness and openness about all forms of child abuse. The best interests/safety and welfare of the student will be paramount in the management of any abuse reports or suspicions at all times.

### **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

Dilworth is committed to providing a safe and caring school climate to ensure the wellbeing and prevent the harm of children, young people, their families and staff. Dilworth is a Child Protection focussed organisation where the child's safety is paramount, in line with Oranga Tamariki (1989) and Vulnerable Children's Act (2014).

### **SCOPE**

This policy covers all staff of Dilworth who have direct or indirect contact with children. For the purpose of this Policy "Staff" means people working at Dilworth and includes employees, contractors, consultants, student trainee teachers, associates and volunteers whether working on a full time, part time, casual, or temporary basis. This policy also covers the Board of Trustees and their responsibilities in the safety and wellbeing of children.

For the purposes of Dilworth's Policy "Child" means a student under the age of 14 years, "Young person" means a student of or over the age of 14 years and up to the age of 18 years; but does not include any person who is or has been married or in a civil union (Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, Section 2). Therefore, this policy will cover all students apart from those who have attained the age of 18 years. Notwithstanding this definition, Dilworth commits to the care and protection of all students in the care of the School regardless of their age.

### **PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS**

#### **Staff recruitment, induction, training and conduct**

Dilworth has policies and procedures that ensure that:

- (1) Staff are carefully selected with the principles of this policy in mind;
- (2) Staff are appropriately trained in issues of child protection;
- (3) Staff are aware of the Child Protection Policy and accompanying procedures and/or guidelines.
- (4) Staff should always maintain appropriate professional boundaries and avoid behaviour which might be misinterpreted by others.

(5) Any sexual activity between an adult and a child or young person will be regarded as a criminal offence and will be a matter for disciplinary action and Police involvement.

(6) All staff are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the Dilworth Code of Conduct.

Further information can be accessed through:

- The Recruitment, Selection and Staffing Policy
- The full Child Protection Policy
- The Child Abuse Prevention and Response Protocol
- Dilworth Code of Conduct – Policies manual
- Protected Disclosures (Whistleblower) Policy

### **Dealing with allegations and disclosures of abuse**

Dilworth has policies and/or procedures that deal with:

- (1) Handling disclosures from a student
- (2) Child-on-child harmful behaviours
- (3) Suicidal concerns or self-harming behaviours
- (4) Allegations made against members of staff

Further information can be accessed through:

- The full Student Protection Policy
- The Child Abuse Prevention and Response Protocol
- The Anti-Bullying Policy

For any issues of current or historical abuse, please contact the Headmaster, Mr Reddiex ([d.reddiex@dilworth.school.nz](mailto:d.reddiex@dilworth.school.nz)).