

Long Bay Primary School

Emotional and Physical Abuse Policy

NAG 5



Long Bay Primary School
WHOLE CHILD EDUCATION

Rationale

This policy is based on the school's philosophy that:

- Sexual, physical, emotional or verbal harassment is not acceptable at Long Bay Primary School.
- All students and staff members are treated with dignity and respect and have the right to have their needs met in a safe environment.

The purposes of such a policy are:

1. To ensure the safety and dignity of the student is paramount.
2. To ensure that the safety and dignity of the staff is upheld at all times.
3. To provide staff members or anyone else dealing with students with guidelines so that they can identify signs of abuse or neglect.
4. To provide procedures for dealing with cases, or suspected cases, of abuse or neglect.
5. To provide guidelines for interview procedures, informing parents or caregivers, and support agencies to contact.

Definitions

Sexual abuse occurs when someone uses his/her power or authority over the person, or takes advantage of a person's trust and respect, to involve them in sexual activity.

Physical abuse is non-accidental injury by somebody and also includes abusive administration of drugs or alcohol to a person.

Psychological and emotional abuse occurs when a person's emotional, psychological or social well-being and sense of worth is continually battered. It can include a pattern of intimidation, harassment, criticising, isolating, exploiting and subjecting to threats of physical or sexual abuse (this is not an exhaustive list).

Neglect is a denial of the basic needs/rights of nurture, food and shelter, so that the victim fails to thrive. This is a form of child abuse.

Guidelines

If child abuse is suspected the following guidelines will be followed:

- Members of our school community will be expected to be receptive and sensitive to children, so that the children feel listened to and believed.
- Staff will be provided, through the staff organisation documentation, with information about reporting procedures and guidelines to follow if abuse is disclosed.
- All information/discussions will be confidential to the staff involved. Data will be stored in one place known to the senior staff. This data will be kept for the duration of the student's stay at the school. It will be forwarded at the discretion of the Principal.
- Where a teacher is concerned about a student they will discuss it with the Principal. The Principal will follow up to ascertain the situation and take further action as required. A record of the concern, and action taken, will be kept in the confidential file. The Principal may contact an appropriate agency without identifying the child and seek advice on the appropriate action.
- Once an agency has been involved, that agency, and where appropriate the Police, will investigate and the school will act on the advice of those agencies.
- Whenever an outside agency interview is held with a student, an adult staff member whom the student has confidence in, must be offered and provided at the student's request. The welfare of the child must be first priority and wherever that is compromised the interview must be terminated. Any staff members attending such interviews would need to have the ability to make this judgement.

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- Support for staff and the student concerned will be sought from the agency involved.
- Keeping Ourselves Safe and self-esteem units will be taught as part of the health curriculum to increase student's skills and strategies for dealing with uncomfortable situations.
- In the case of staff abuse, information will be forwarded to the Principal/Privacy Officer with the permission of the complainant. Advice will be given on appropriate agencies and support available for adults.

Approval

When the Board approved this Policy it agreed that no variations of this Policy or amendments to it can be made except with the approval of the Board.

A copy of this policy is to be included in the School Policy Manual, a copy of which shall be available to all staff, and to students and parents at their request.

DATE:	APPROVED BY:	
2019		
Next Review:	PRINCIPAL L. Barton	BOT CHAIRPERSON L. Rive
2022		