



NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
TE KURA TAMATĀNE O NGĀMOTU

Title	ABUSE EXTERNAL TO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
Reference Number	F602
Section	Students
Written By	NPBHS Policy Committee
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Associated Policies	
Associated Procedures	

RATIONALE :

To enable any abuse of students that occurs at a time and place outside the authority of the school to be detected and dealt with in order to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

PURPOSE :

1. To provide procedures for dealing with cases of neglect or abuse that occur external to the school environment.
2. To provide guidelines for those working with pupils who disclose this abuse to that person.

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 any of the symptoms of abuse which are :

Visible injuries
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-mutilation (home tattooing)
Sexual promiscuity / prostitution
Eating disorders especially bulimia



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Withdrawn, depressed, overactive, aggressive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 / Firelighting

3. Contact people for students are : Any staff member that a student feels comfortable with but are likely to include one of the following :
 - a. Group Teachers
 - b. Deans
 - c. The Health Nurse
 - d. The School Chaplain
 - e. Assistant Principal
 - f. Deputy Headmaster
 - g. Senior Hostel Master
 - h. Matrons
 - i. The Guidance Counsellor
 - j. Housemasters
4. The role of the person to whom a student reveals abuse that is occurring outside the school environment is to pass this information without judgement, to one of the members of the Senior Administration, 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, CYFA, the Guidance Counsellor OR a suitable adult MUST be present.
8. The Headmaster will ensure notification to NZCYF 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.

