



Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College

Next review: Term 3 2025

Child Protection

Our **Child Protection** policy, along with supporting policies and procedures, applies to any student at Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College who is defined as a **child** under the Children's Act 2014 (Part 1, s. 5). Where this policy refers to "students" to maintain consistency with other school documentation, **child protection** requirements apply, with the exception of those outside the Children's Act definition. Concerns about students who are 18 years and over are directed to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki, or the New Zealand Police.

Child protection framework

As required by the Children's Act 2014 (s. 14), we have adopted this Child Protection policy as our framework for student safety at Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College. This policy contains provisions for identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect, with further detail provided in **Abuse Recognition and Reporting**.

Guidance provided by Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College for the safety and wellbeing of students aligns with the principles of partnership/mahi tahi, protection/kaitiakitanga, and participation/whai wāhi; and the rights and responsibilities of all members of our school community as outlined by te Tiriti o Waitangi. We recognise the importance of involving family/whānau in decision-making, and we involve students in decision-making about themselves in age-appropriate ways. Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College accepts that children have a fundamental right to have their needs met in an environment safe from abuse and neglect. The college accepts its responsibility under the legislation for engaging in safe employment practices and playing a role in the prevention and identification of **child** abuse and neglect.

Our child protection policy, along with supporting documentation, ensures we maintain student welfare as our primary concern, and keep the student at the centre of decision-making. We aim to safeguard our students from abuse and neglect by encouraging concerns to be recognised and shared, and having systems to respond when concerns are raised.

See **Student Wellbeing and Safety** for a list of policies and procedures supporting child protection at Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College.

Supporting student safety and responding to concerns

We support the wellbeing/hauora of our students by establishing positive learning environments, and promoting respectful relationships between students and staff. We have a designated child protection person, who is the primary point of contact for concerns about students, including concerns about abuse or neglect. At Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College, this person is the HOD of guidance counselling. In situations of concern, we aim to work together and intervene early to support student safety and wellbeing.

and accessible to all other staff, and has experience and training in responding to **child protection** concerns.

Child protection partnerships

Staff members work with relevant contacts within the school to best support students, and seek guidance from external agencies as appropriate. Unless there is immediate danger, staff members do not act alone on their concerns.

Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College works with Oranga Tamariki and the New Zealand Police where appropriate, and liaises with partner agencies and community organisations to support early interventions with the goal of safe and effective abuse response. We share information if it is in the best interests of a student, as per **information sharing provisions**. In all circumstances, Te Puna Wai o Waipapa Hagley College is carefully guided by these provisions as well as **privacy** considerations.

For further detail about information sharing processes, see **Sharing Student Personal Information with External Agencies**.

External agency interviews

If an external agency such as the police or Oranga Tamariki asks to interview a student on school grounds, the school ensures the rights of the student are upheld. If Oranga Tamariki contacts the school to interview a student, that student has the right to a support person if they wish. This support person (e.g. member of support staff, teacher, or principal) focuses on the safety and wellbeing of the student.

The police may contact the school to question a student. Students in this situation have the right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer. If a student who is under 18 is interviewed by police, a nominated adult can support them. See **Youth Law: Rights with the Police**.

Child protection review

We acknowledge that child protection is everyone's responsibility and we share and review our Child Protection policy and procedures with our wider school community.

Child protection topics are reviewed at least once every three years as part of the SchoolDocs **review cycle**. Our designated child protection person and any other relevant staff are involved in reviewing policies and procedures related to child protection.

The principal assures the board that the Child Protection policy is in use, is being implemented correctly, and is publicly available. See **Self-Review and Board Assurances**.

Acknowledgement

SchoolDocs appreciates the input of Safeguarding Children through their review of Child Protection-related policies and procedures.

Legislation

- Children's Act 2014
- Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
- Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017
- Privacy Act 2020
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Resources