# TE AWAMUTU COLLEGE

# POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILD PROTECTION

**Rationale**

Te Awamutu College has particular responsibilities under legislation as well as those expected by society to provide an environment which ensures that all children and young people are treated with dignity and respect and are provided with a safe environment which supports and enhances their physical and emotional well-being.

**Purpose**

1. To emphasise that of paramount consideration are the well-being and best interests of the child or young person.
2. To provide guidelines for everyone working with children and young people in the school environment.
3. To ensure that children and young people are provided with preventative education to enhance their safety and awareness.
4. To assist in implementation of procedures for dealing with cases of current or historical abuse.
5. To identify which external agencies should be used, services they provide, liaison required and appropriate referral procedures.

**Guidelines**

1. The safety of the child or young person must be the first consideration. Any staff member who believes that any child or young person has been, or is likely to be harmed (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treated, abused, neglected, or deprived should report the matter to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Guidance Counsellor. They will speak with the Principal and a referral will be made to the appropriate external agency.
2. Liaison with Oranga Tamariki, the Police and the Guidance Counsellor regarding professional learning and development will take place. Professional learning and development will occur for staff on what child abuse and neglect are and the procedures to be followed at Te Awamutu College.
3. Preventative education will be provided through the delivery of the Health and Physical Education curriculum.
4. In the case of a notification, decisions about informing parents or caregivers will be made after consultation between the school and the statutory child protection service involved.

5. Professional ethics and boundaries will underpin all processes followed and actions taken. The privacy of those concerned must be respected.

6. The Principal (delegated by the Board) will ensure that the relevant principles and duties of Oranga Tamariki: Act 1989 No. 24 (1 July 2019)(Children's and Young People's Act 1989) and Vulnerable Children Act 2014 are followed and adhered to.

7. The Principal (delegated by the Board) will ensure that the processes of the Vulnerable Children (Requirements for Safety Checks of Children's Workers) Regulations 2015 are completed.

8. The Principal (delegated by the Board) will ensure that every contract or funding arrangement, that the school enters into includes child protection policies where required/appropriate.

CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE 22/2/23

PRINCIPAL _____ DATE 19/1/23