

Child Protection

Ruawai College aims to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and security of all children by practising open and accountable child-centred decision-making. We recognise the importance of involving family/whānau in decision-making about their children, and will involve children in decision-making about themselves in age-appropriate ways. We acknowledge that child protection is everyone's responsibility and we promote our child protection policies to our school community.

"Child", in the context of our school's [child protection](#) policies, means a [child](#) or young person aged under 18 years (who is not married or in a civil union) – Children's Act 2014.

Sharing information

We share information with appropriate agencies if sharing that information will protect or improve the safety, health, or wellbeing of a child. In all circumstances, Ruawai College is carefully guided by **privacy** considerations in the sharing of information. By law, we can share information with the police and Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.

Student and staff safety

We take concerns about the safety of students seriously, and respond to them quickly. Prevention and early intervention are important, and we use the least intrusive intervention possible to protect vulnerable children.

We promote a culture where staff feel confident that they can challenge poor practice, or raise issues of concern without fear of reprisal. See **Protected Disclosure**.

When addressing a formal complaint, the school does not use settlement agreements where these contradict a culture of child protection. See **Investigate a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation**.

Child protection policy requirements

Schools are subject to the Children's Act 2014, and must have child protection policies which are readily available. As required by the Act, child protection practices are incorporated into our policies and procedures. Ruawai College has a designated person responsible for child protection policies. Our designated person is the principal, and is the primary point of contact for concerns about a child, including concerns about abuse or neglect. Our child protection policies apply to school staff, contractors, and volunteers.

External agency interviews

If Oranga Tamariki – Ministry of Children contacts the school to interview a child, that child has the right to a support person to sit alongside them if they wish. This support person (e.g. guidance counsellor, teacher, or principal) focuses on the safety and wellbeing of the child.

The police may contact the school to question a student – that student has the right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer. If the student is under 18 and is interviewed by police they can nominate an adult to support them. See **Youth Law: Rights with the Police**.

Reviewing our policies and procedures related to child protection

Key child protection policies and procedures are reviewed at least once every three years as part of the SchoolDocs **review cycle** (see table below). Our school's designated person for child protection is involved in reviewing any policies and procedures related to child protection.

The principal **assures the board** yearly on the implementation of key [child protection policies/procedures](#).

Relevant section	Child protection policies and procedures
Student Safety and Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe Practice Professional Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Care and Management of Students
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Behaviour in Children
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behaviour Management , especially Bullying and Online Bullying
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abuse Recognition and Reporting , including Definitions and Indicators of Child Abuse/Neglect/Family Violence
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Student Wellbeing
Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy (scheduled review)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Technology and Cybersafety
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harassment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contractors Working at School
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separated Parents, Day-to-Day Care, and Guardianship
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Restraint
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Social Media
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitors
Employer Responsibility Policy (scheduled review)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment Procedure (especially Conduct Interviews, Referee and Background Checks)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerns and Complaints
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected Disclosure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Teacher Certification and Police Vetting

Legislation and Administration Policy
(scheduled review)

✓ **Privacy**

Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy
(scheduled review)

✓ **Learning Support**
(especially **Learning Support Supervision**)

✓ **EOTC**
(especially **EOTC Parent Help**)







Parents and Whānau

✓ **Parent Involvement**

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

- Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children: [Children's Teams](#) 
- Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children: [Safer Organisations, Safer Children](#) (Guidelines for child protection policies to build safer organisations) 
- Child Matters: [Child Protection Policy](#) (offers child protection training and a policy advisory service) 
- Ministry of Health: [Is that Child OK?](#) 
- Safeguarding Children: [Online courses and seminars](#) 
- United Nations Human Rights: [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) 

Release history: [Term 1 2021](#), [Term 4 2020](#), [Term 3 2019](#), [Term 4 2017](#)

<i>Last scheduled review</i>	<i>Term 3 2020</i>
<i>Last internal review</i>	<i>Term 4 2020</i>
<i>Topic type</i>	<i>Generic</i>