

Box Hill Senior Secondary College

MANDATORY REPORTING Policy

Rationale:

- All students have a right to feel safe and to be safe. Teachers have a legal and moral responsibility to respond to serious incidences involving abuse and neglect of the children with whom they have contact and to report instances where there is belief of physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

Aims:

- To ensure that students' rights to be safe are maintained and each student is protected against physical and sexual abuse and neglect.

Implementation:

- All members of the Teaching Service are mandated by law to report signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, and neglect.
- New staff will be informed of mandatory reporting responsibilities and procedures.
- Staff will be reminded of mandatory responsibilities regularly.
- All concerns must be reported immediately to the Principal, or in his absence, one of the Assistant Principals.
- The Principal will keep a record of all discussions about a student with whom there is a concern.
- If a belief has been formed by a staff member that sexual or physical abuse or neglect has taken place a "Mandatory Reporting Information Sheet" available from the Principal must be completed and filed appropriately by the Principal or his nominee.
- The teacher and/or the Principal class officer will contact the Department of Human Services by telephone as soon as possible to make an official notification on:
1300 369 536 or after school hours crisis line 131278
- Members of the Department of Human Services, or associated support or intervention services that visit the school following a notification will interview staff and children only in the presence of a Principal class member or his nominee.
- All reports, information sheets and subsequent discussions and information are to be recorded and remain strictly confidential.
- All incidents to be monitored, and any subsequent signs or indications of abuse are also to be reported.
- While only mandated by law to report incidents of physical and sexual abuse, and neglect; teachers are also encouraged to report incidents of emotional abuse or neglect.
- Students, who disclose to staff a desire to harm themselves or others, must be reported by staff to the principal.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in May, 2014.

Signed: Gina D'Ettorre (Council President).