

Mahamevnawa Dhamma School

Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

At Mahamevnawa Dhamma School, we are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all children. Our Child Protection Policy aims to ensure the well-being and protection of children attending our school, in accordance with New Zealand's laws and guidelines.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and anyone involved in activities at Mahamevnawa Dhamma School.

3. Objectives

- To promote the welfare and safety of all children.
- To prevent abuse and exploitation of children.
- To ensure prompt and appropriate responses to concerns about child safety, in line with New Zealand's Child Protection Act 2014.

4. Responsibilities

- **Staff and Volunteers:** Must adhere to this policy, report concerns, and take appropriate action.
- **Management:** Responsible for implementing and monitoring the policy, ensuring training, and handling reports of abuse.
- **Designated Child Protection Officer:** An individual appointed to oversee child protection matters, liaise with authorities, and ensure compliance with legal requirements.

5. Code of Conduct

All staff and volunteers must:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Ensure that interactions with children are appropriate and professional.
- Avoid any behavior that could be misconstrued or considered exploitative.

6. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

- **Reporting:** Any concerns or suspicions about child abuse must be reported immediately to the designated child protection officer.

- **Responding:** The designated child protection officer will take appropriate action, including informing Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children), New Zealand Police, and providing support to the child.

7. Review and Monitoring

- This policy will be reviewed every 3 years to ensure its effectiveness and updated as necessary, in compliance with New Zealand's legislative changes and best practices.