

# **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.