

# **Dorset Primary School 5132**

## **Responding to Student Sexual Assault Policy**

### **PURPOSE**

At Dorset primary school we are committed to ensuring that we provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students. In the context of student sexual assault staff have a duty of care towards all students involved, including the alleged victim, the alleged perpetrator and any other students who may have been affected.

### **GUIDELINES**

To achieve a safe and secure learning environment for all students, Principals/delegate must:

- Remember their duty of care to all students involved
- Take all allegations of sexual assault and inappropriate sexual behaviour seriously
- Follow the Department's mandatory procedures for responding to allegations of sexual assault and inappropriate sexual behaviour including notifying Victoria Pole
- Work in partnership with the Student Incident Advisory Unit, the Regional Office and the Victoria Police SOCA Unit when responding to an allegation of student sexual assault
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the Victoria Police SOCA Unit; DHS Child Protection, including when to make a mandatory report to DHS Child Protection; and Conduct and Ethics Branch of the Department of Education (where allegations are made against teachers or school employees)
- Work with the Student Critical Incident Advisory Unit, the Regional Office and the Victoria Police SOCA Unit to ensure that communication with parents/carers, staff, students, the school community and the media is handled sensitively and appropriately
- Provide ongoing monitoring and support for students involved

### **PROCEDURES**

- If a teacher believes that there is a case of inappropriate sexual behaviour they are to complete an incident form and inform the principal/principal delegate and then a member of the leadership team.
- It is then the Principal's responsibility to manage the allegation in consultation with the regional office and the SCIAU who will provide advice on an appropriate course of action.
- After suitable consultation with SCIAU and the regional office, the principal/principal delegate may decide the matter is best managed by:
  - o Support from school or network or regional wellbeing staff
  - o Providing education about appropriate behaviour
  - o Devising Support management plans and supportive behaviour management plans (<http://www.education.vic.gov.au#3>)
  - o Engaging the centres against sexual assault (CASA) or children's protection society (CPS)
  - o Referral to Chaplin at the principal/principal's delegate discretion
- The nature of the concern will dictate the necessary authority to be contacted
  - o 000 if the incident is an emergency requiring medical or police assistance
  - o Victorian Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams
  - o Security Services Unit on (03) 9589-6266
  - o Conduct and Ethics Branch on (03) 9637-2594 or (03) 9637-2595 if the incident involves allegations of sexual assault by a teacher of school staff member and/or
  - o Department of Human Services, Child Protection on 131 278 if the principal believes the student would not be supported at home.
- The school must continue to communicate regularly with parents.