

Child Protection - Mandatory Reporting of Abuse & Neglect

<p>Source of Obligation</p>	<p>Under the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 (Tas) (CYPFA), a principal or teacher or any worker designated as a mandatory reporter in any educational institution is required by law to make a report if he or she knows, believes or suspects, on reasonable grounds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a child has been or is being abused or neglected; • a child has been or is being affected by family violence; • there is a reasonable likelihood of a child being killed or abused or neglected by a person with whom the child resides; and • while a woman is pregnant, that there is a reasonable likelihood that after the birth of the child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the child will suffer abuse or neglect, or may be killed by a person with whom the child is likely to reside; or ii. the child will require medical treatment or other interventions as a result of the behaviour of the woman or other person with whom the woman resides or likely to reside, before the birth of the child.
<p>St Alice School's Policy</p>	<p>St Alice School has developed a detailed Child Protection Policy which outlines abuse and neglect risk indicators, key requirements when managing student disclosure, initial notification procedures, the development of a management plan, the provision of ongoing support, record keeping and confidentiality.</p> <p>This policy is designed to set out in plain English, teachers' obligations in relation to mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect in Tasmania.</p> <p>The CYPFA does not define the terms 'know, believe or suspect on reasonable grounds.'</p> <p>This policy provides ordinary English meanings of these terms to assist mandatory reporters in their understanding of how to comply with their obligations.</p>
<p>What Does 'Know, Believe or Suspects on Reasonable Grounds' Mean?</p>	<p>Know This includes something you recognise, acknowledge or perceive. You may consider that you know that a child is being abused or neglected because you have seen it occurring.</p> <p>Believe This includes if you think that something is the case, but do not yet know. A belief is between a suspicion on reasonable grounds, and knowing.</p>

Suspect, on Reasonable Grounds

To suspect, on reasonable grounds, is to form a suspicion on reasonable grounds.

A suspicion has its ordinary English meaning. This includes a guess, intuition or notion or impression.

Whether reasonable grounds exist is a question of fact that will vary depending on individual circumstances. This includes where you have seen, or have evidence of, something that could indicate a suspicion is true.

Reasonable grounds include:

- where a child tells you that he or she has suffered non-accidental physical injury neglect, sexual abuse and/or emotional trauma (such as extreme fear);
- someone tells you that a child has been abused or neglected; and
- your own observations of a child's physical condition or behaviours leads you to suspect that the child has suffered abuse or neglect.

If you believe, or suspect on reasonable grounds, or know that:

- a child has been or is being abused or neglected;
- a child has been or is being affected by family violence; or
- there is a reasonable likelihood of a child being killed or abused or neglected by a person with whom the child resides;

What Must Be Reported?

this information must be reported as soon as practicable after you form the belief or suspicion or gain the knowledge.

Refer to [Child Protection - Abuse, Grooming & Neglect Identification & Initial Notification](#).

Due to the seriousness of child abuse and neglect, reports should be made using the most direct means possible.

Concerns that require immediate attention should be made by calling Child Protection Services on 1300 737 693.

How is a Report Made?

If you need to report an offence that requires immediate police attention, please call Police: 000.

Reports can also be made by completing the [online electronic form](#) or by completing the [Notification to Child Protection Intake Form](#). The report must include a statement of the observations, information, opinions and other grounds upon which the belief, suspicion, or knowledge is based.

The Notification to Child Protection Intake Form will assist in making a

	comprehensive report, whether verbally or in writing.
Confidentiality of the Reporter's Identity	<p>The identity of a person who makes a report to Child Protection Services is confidential and generally protected by law.</p> <p>It is important to note however that the identity of the notifier may be disclosed if a person is acting in the course of official duties under the CYPFA or if a court grants leave.</p> <p>Child Protection Services will assess the notification.</p> <p>If it is assessed that there is no risk in the notification, or that the risk is being managed and the child is safe, there will be no further action.</p>
What Happens After a Report is Made?	<p>If the notification is serious and requires further assessment, Child Protection Services will carry out an investigation.</p> <p>If an investigation is necessary, the child will be seen, other services and agencies will assist, and a decision will be made about whether there is a risk substantiated. Child Protection Services will then take further steps, including short-term protective intervention and support, or longer-term protective intervention and support.</p>
Implementation	<p>This policy is implemented through a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff training; • effective communication and incident notification procedures; • effective record keeping procedures; and • initiation of corrective actions where necessary.
Discipline for Breach of Policy	<p>Where a staff member breaches this policy St Alice School may take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.</p>
Related Policies	<p>TCEC Mandatory Reporting Policy TCEC Mandatory Reporting Procedure</p> <p>Child Protection - Abuse, Grooming & Neglect Identification & Initial Notification Child Protection - Working With Vulnerable People Registration Child Protection - Detecting, reporting and addressing grooming behaviours Crisis Management (Traumatic Events) Policy Counselling Services (Student) Policy</p>
Key Reference	<p>Mandatory Reporting Training Power Point</p>