

THE SCHOOL

**MANDATORY REPORTING POLICY**

**RATIONALE**

It is a legal requirement in Western Australia for doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers and police officers to report all reasonable beliefs of child sexual abuse to the Department for Child Protection. The protection and care of children is the responsibility of the community and society as a whole. The Department for Child Protection has a major responsibility for safekeeping and promoting the well being of children. The Children and Community Services Act 2004 provides a legislative base for the department's involvement with families and children. THE SCHOOL staff are required by law to report any incidences of sexual abuse.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

It is the School's policy to provide initial and ongoing training to staff of Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Abuse.

- Initial training of all staff was carried out in 2009
- New staff as part of their orientation to School undergo training in mandatory reporting
- Refresher courses are conducted as part of the PD schedule of THE SCHOOL
- Staff can make their report using the web site:  
<http://mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx>

**INTERVENTIONS**

The staff must report Sexual Abuse in relation to a child, includes inappropriate sexual behaviour in circumstances where:

- The child is the subject of bribery, coercion, a threat, exploitation or violence
- The child has less power than another person involved in the behavior
- There is a significant disparity in the developmental function or maturity of the child and another person involved in the behavior.

**STAFF MAKING A REPORT:**

- Must specify the grounds on which they formed the belief by reporting detailed information including: what the child has said or done to suggest they are sexually abused; if the child has disclosed abuse; a description of any behavioral interactions with the child that are of concern; the frequency and severity of those behaviours; whether the child has an injury or medical needs.

**SUMMARY**

Under the act all staff are trained in Mandatory Reporting and are obligated to report incidences of Child Sexual Abuse based on a belief, formed on reasonable grounds in the course of their work as a member of staff, that the child has been the subject of sexual abuse or is the subject of ongoing sexual abuse to the department on their web site.