

Young, Ellen L

From: Rabbi Smukler [Rabbi.Smukler@yeshivahcentre.org]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2011 6:11 PM
To: Young, Ellen L
Cc: Rabbi Smukler
Subject: ! response to VRQA query re child protection policy
Attachments: Child First Policy Aug 2011.doc

Dear Ellen,

Attached please find our amended "Child First / Child Protection Policy" reflecting the comments you mentioned on Monday.

Please let me know if the amended policy addresses the relevant concerns.

In addition I wish to share with you Yeshivah's approach and practices regarding child protection issues, and our commitment to ensuring that we are all well equipped to prevent and deal with issues should they arise.

As is good practice, the school has strong connections and relationships with relevant organisations and support people to assist us should any problems arise. These include:

- We have a point of contact with the local Child Protection (DHS) investigative unit manager and a number of her colleagues. ✓
- We are acquainted with the local SOCA (Sexual Offences and Child Abuse) Police team, and how they work within the Jewish Community. ✓
- We are very familiar with the children and family services provided by SECASA.
- We also tapped into the resources, training and support offered by the JTAFV (Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence).

All teaching staff are subject to a Police Check prior to being offered employment, and all auxiliary staff such as groundsmen, administrative staff and people who have regular contact with the school have a Working with Children Check. ✓ Should we become aware of a problem or possible risk to our students, we will immediately work with the authorities and ensure the person is dealt with appropriately and has no access whatsoever to our children.

We are proactive in creating a safe school community:

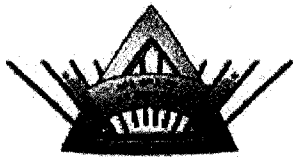
- We empower our students to stand up for what they know is right and to say 'no'. We do so via the 'Bounce Back' -a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program -in our Primary School that develops these and other resiliency skills.
- Our entire School Staff (Primary and Secondary) have undergone DHS 'mandatory reporting' ✓ training as well as Legal training concerning a teacher's legal duties inclusive of 'Duty of Care' provided by Jason Newman of TressCox Solicitors. ✓
- A number of our staff attended training with Debbie Gross (Director of the Crisis Centre for Jewish Women in Jerusalem) during her Melbourne visit in March 2011.
 - o These educators returned to our school after the seminar and conducted 'Protective Behaviour' workshops with our students,
 - o In these workshops the children learnt to 'say no, run away and tell an adult'.

- The students also learnt about 'good touch bad touch', 'no secrets', 'my body is mine' and 'if something makes me uncomfortable I don't need to put up with it'.
- We systematically train the students in both our Primary and Secondary School in these personal safety behaviours and regularly revisit these skills to ensure they are fresh in the children's minds.
- We have robust policies and procedures that govern staff and student interaction.

We also believe that it takes a community to prevent abuse. As such we have established a close working partnership between the school and the parent body. The school adopts a leadership role by prioritising child safety, providing training programs and ensuring effective policies to prevent, and procedures to deal with, issues should they arise. We assist parents in establishing open lines of communication with their children and the school, as we believe they can facilitate prevention through their own awareness and education.

We are absolutely committed to creating a safe school environment where students, staff, and parents feel comfortable to come forward with any concerns. We have invested much energy and resources in this area and will continue to do so, going forward.

Sincerely,



ישיבת הוֹתָם הַזְּכוּת לְיִשׁוּבָא דְיִשְׂרָאֵל

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This email message has been sent by:

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