



Victorian Registration &
Qualifications Authority

Level 6, 35 Spring St
Melbourne VIC 3000

GPO Box 2317
Melbourne VIC 3001

T 61 3 9637 2806

F 61 3 9651 3266

vrqa@edumail.vic.gov.au

Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler
Principal
Yeshivah College
88 Hotham Street
ST KILDA EAST 3183

Dear Rabbi Smukler

I write in relation to a recent article in *The Age* concerning an investigation by Victoria Police into an alleged incident of sexual abuse which occurred at the school some years ago.

While the VRQA has no role in the current police investigation, it is important that it is satisfied that the school has in place appropriate procedures to oversee the management of mandatory reporting at the school as required by the minimum standards for school registration.

On 8 July 2011, the VRQA contacted Ms Nechama Bendet to request a copy of the school's current mandatory procedures; this was provided the same day. Ms Bendet also explained that the school has a resilience policy for its students and provides in-service to its teachers on mandatory reporting. A copy of a letter providing parents with information about the current Victoria Police investigation was also provided.

The submitted Policy - Child First - Child Protection document which includes some information on mandatory reporting has been assessed. It does not, however, meet the minimum standard.

The procedures do not make it clear that if a teacher has formed a belief, on reasonable grounds, that a child has or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of physical injury or sexual abuse, the teacher must be the person who makes the report. There are also steps in the document which lack clarity and which are potentially confusing.

I ask that you or a senior member of your school staff meet with the VRQA to discuss the matter further. Please contact Ellen Young, Manager, Quality Assurance Schools, on 9651 3803 or young.ellen.l@edumail.vic.gov.au to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Glover', written over a horizontal line.

LYNN GLOVER
Director

27 July 2011