



ישיבת אהלי יוסף יצחק – ליובאוויטש – בית רבקה
 YESHIVAH-BETH RIVKAH COLLEGES
 תחת נשיאות כ"ק אדמו"ר מליובאוויטש

Policy – Child First – Child Protection

Under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, which came into effect in 2007, there are 3 categories of government support available to vulnerable children and their families through the Department of Human Services (D.H.S.). These are:

1. **Child First** – is a team of registered community service agencies in a local area that supports children and families.
2. **Child Protection** – is a government agency that protects children at risk of significant harm.
3. **Mandatory Reporting** – is made to **Child Protection** (D.H.S) when "a reasonable person practising your profession would form a belief that a child is in need of protection from sexual abuse or physical injury."

The following policy sets out procedures to be followed in each area.

1. **CHILD FIRST** – if you have significant concern for a child's wellbeing, but do not believe that the child is in need of protection. This includes situations such as significant parenting problems that may be affecting the child's development, serious family conflict/breakdown, significant social and economic disadvantage that may adversely impact on the child's development.

In any of the above circumstances follow these procedures:

- a) Discretely speak to other staff to see if they have similar concerns.
- b) Speak to the parents. This is often sufficient to correct the problem.
- c) Document discussion and results.
- d) If you feel that you cannot speak to parents or if you have spoken to parents and their response is inadequate then:
 - e) Speak to a Senior Staff Member*
 - f) Document Discussion
 - g) Senior Staff Member* will consult the Principal and relevant government agencies and / or staff eg. Teachers, School Psychologist/Counsellor/Level Convenor, Student wellbeing coordinator, Heads of School, Deputy or Assistant Principal
 - h) Senior Staff Member* will then decide on preferred course of action including possible referral to outside agencies and/or Child First.
 - i) Senior Staff Member* to document and inform relevant staff of decisions and action taken.
 - j) If the Senior Staff Member* decides not to contact an outside agency and a member of staff believes that a referral/report should be made, that staff member should do so and inform the Senior Staff Member* of action taken.
- k) Situation to be monitored to ensure that issues are resolved and that the child is supported.



2. **CHILD PROTECTION** – If you believe that a child is in need of protection from harm (other than physical injury or sexual abuse) e.g. persistent neglect, lack of supervision, family violence, parental substance abuse.

In any of the above circumstances follow these procedures:

- a) Speak to the Senior Staff Member* immediately
- b) Document Discussion
- c) Senior Staff Member* will consult the Principal and relevant government agencies and / or staff eg. Teachers, School Psychologist/Counsellor/Level Convenor, Student wellbeing coordinator, Heads of School, Deputy or Assistant Principal
- d) Senior Staff Member* will then decide on preferred course of action including possible referral to outside agencies and a report to Child Protection
- e) Senior Staff Member* to document and inform relevant staff of decisions and action taken.
- f) If the Senior Staff Member* decides not to contact an outside agency and a member of staff believes that a referral/report should be made, that staff member should do so and inform the Senior Staff Member* of action taken.
- g) Situation to be monitored to ensure that issues are resolved and that the child is supported.

3. **MANDATORY REPORTING** - applies in cases of; serious physical abuse, unexplained injury, a disclosure of sexual abuse by a child or witness or a combination of factors that suggest the likelihood of sexual abuse.

In any of the above circumstances follow these procedures:

- a) Speak to a Senior Staff Member* immediately
- b) Document Discussion
- c) Senior Staff Member* will consult the Principal and relevant government agencies and / or staff eg. Teachers, School Psychologist/Counsellor/Level Convenor, Student wellbeing coordinator, Heads of School, Deputy or Assistant Principal
- d) Senior Staff Member* will then decide on preferred course of action including possible referral to outside agencies and a report to Child Protection.
- e) Senior Staff Member* to document and inform relevant staff of decisions and action taken.
- f) If the Senior Staff Member* decides not to contact an outside agency and a member of staff believes that a referral/report should be made, that staff member is obligated by law to do so and inform the Senior Staff Member* of action taken.
- g) Situation to be monitored to ensure that issues are resolved and that the child is supported.

Please note that in any or all of the above, confidentiality/privacy is to be protected. Information is **only** to be shared with those that "need to know."

* Senior Staff Member = Head of Students, Head of Teaching and Learning, Co-ordinator/Head of Jewish Studies, Head of School, Deputy / Assistant Principal or Principal

Reviewed: June 2014

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