

PALMERSTON NORTH INTERMEDIATE NORMAL SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

POLICY RELATED TO VULNERABLE CHILDRENS ACT

POLICY: VULNERABLE CHILDREN ACT POLICY

RATIONALE:

A shared child protection culture will keep children safe and address the needs of vulnerable children and their families/whanau

PURPOSES:

1. To provide a safe and competent children's workforce that takes a child-centred approach
2. To ensure the school's guidelines reflect the requirements of the Vulnerable Children Act
3. To inform staff of the Vulnerable Children (Requirements for Safety Checks of Children's Workers) Regulations 2015
4. To determine what legal requirements for the standard safety check should be and how best to articulate these in a clear way in school procedures/expectations
5. To ensure that the school follows the 'Phased Implementation – safety checking and workforce restrictions' as per the time frame provided

GUIDELINES:

The following are requirements of the Vulnerable Children' Act:

1. Protecting vulnerable children is now everyone's responsibility. This includes **all government-funded** children's workers.
2. All state funded services and their contracted providers are to safety check (vet and screen) the children's workforce and have child protection policies, to ensure we have a safe and competent workforce for vulnerable children.
3. The school's guidelines and procedures will focus on a shared child protection culture with children at the centre, core competencies for all children's workers and code of practice.
4. All staff will be familiar with the rationale behind the Vulnerable Children Act Policy, and associated guidelines and procedures.

CONCLUSION:

Protecting vulnerable children is now everyone's responsibility.

Appendices:

1. 'Phased Implementation – safety checking and workforce restrictions'
2. 'Children's Action Plan and Vulnerable Children Act 2014 questions and answers'
3. 'Vulnerable Children (Requirements for Safety Checks of Children's Workers) Regulations 2015'

Chairperson:

Approved: September 2015

Review Date: September 2018