

Statement of Policy

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Board of Education directs that school division staff report all suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect directly to Child Protection Services and/or police in accordance with The Child and Family Services Act. Furthermore, that all school division staff adhere to the current protocol agreement between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Services and school division Child Abuse Guidelines.

Rationale

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools places the highest priority on ensuring the safety of children. All citizens have a duty to report child abuse and/or neglect in accordance with provincial legislation. This is a shared responsibility by all members of the community and employees of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Authority

- The Child and Family Services Act
- Provincial Child Abuse Protocol 2014

Procedures

1. The employee reports all suspected cases of child abuse directly to the Ministry of Social Services and/or police.
2. The employee must notify the school principal that a report has been made to a child protection worker and/or police about a suspected case of child abuse.
3. The employee completes an Employee Report of Suspected Abuse. The Employee Report of Suspected Abuse must be hand delivered to the office of the Director of Education in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential".
4. Strict confidentiality with respect to the details of the case, documentation and records shall be maintained.
5. School division personnel will cooperate with police and/or child protection workers by providing access to information and an opportunity to speak to the child as needed.
6. School division personnel will participate in case planning and observe the child's progress, including behaviour, academic progress, emotional functional and physical well-being.
7. School division personnel will maintain written records of observations and/or discussions with, or relating to the child.

8. Any communication or contacts with parents and/or guardians in regard to the alleged abuse and/or neglect is the responsibility of the investigating agency.
9. There will be no initiated communication or contact with parents and/or guardians by the principal or a member of the school staff in regard to the alleged abuse and/or neglect.
10. In the event that families contact school, please redirect them back to Social Services and/or police.
11. The principal is responsible for ensuring that all employees are aware of and have access to the following documents on our division website:
 - Staff Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy
 - Child Abuse Guidelines
 - Ministry of Saskatchewan Document - Investigation of Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect Fact Sheet for School and School Division Personnel
 - The Counsel for Children Program and Saskatchewan Schools

Date Approved

June 12, 2017

Amended
