



WESLEY COLLEGE TRUST BOARD

**ABUSE, HARASSMENT OR
NEGLECT OF BOARDERS**

RATIONALE

The Wesley College Trust Board wishes to establish proper procedures to be followed if there is a report of child abuse or suspected child abuse, harassment or serious neglect.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the implementation of Regulation 58 of the Education (Hostels) Regulations 2005.

POLICY

1. **Any report or suspicion that a boarder is experiencing abuse must be taken seriously** and subsequent action must be based on the paramount principle that the interests of the Child come first.
2. **Any concern in relation to abuse should immediately be advised to the Hostel Manager on Duty, the Deputy Principal (Boarding) or directly to the Principal.** Where the advice is given to the Hostel Manager on Duty, the Hostel manager on duty will notify the Deputy Principal (Boarding) and the Principal at the earliest opportunity.
3. **The Principal will then make a procedural decision** in relation to the disclosure, based on 'a belief on reasonable grounds', after considering the source of the information, and any relevant physical, behavioural or circumstantial evidence available at the time.
 - a. The Principal will advise the person whose actions have led to the disclosure of the allegation and ask for a response within a reasonable period of time.
 - b. If the Principal (as the Proprietor's authorised representative) considers that it is necessary to ensure that no further inappropriate behaviour towards any boarder occurs he will require the person (whether a member of the hostel's staff or boarder or other person) who may have / be abusing, harassing or seriously neglecting a boarder to stay off the hostel premises.
4. Where the Principal forms the belief that abuse, harassment or serious neglect of a boarder has taken place then written notice of this must be given to at least one of the following within 24 hours: the parents of the boarder concerned, the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, or the New Zealand Police.
5. The Principal will issue guidelines and give direction as to the application of the above policy to hostel staff.

Refer: Wesley College Disciplinary Provisions
Hostel Relationships Policy

This policy was adopted by the Wesley College Hostel Council on 16 September 2009.
This policy will be reviewed on/before the October Hostel Council meeting 2012.

Signed. Mr C Telford
CHAIRPERSON

16 September 2009