

## CHILD NEGLECT AND/OR ABUSE

### - POLICY -

The board recognizes its responsibility to ensure the safety and well being of all students within the jurisdiction of School District No. 85.

The board commits to working cooperatively with the Ministry of Children and Families, Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Services Agencies and the RCMP to protect children from abuse and neglect.

The board requires that any suspected cases of child neglect or abuse be dealt with in the manner required in provincial protocols and regulations.

### - REGULATION -

1. Employees, contractors and volunteers who are in direct contact with children are expected to be aware of and understand how to carry out their legal duty to report concerns about child abuse or neglect.
2. The School District shall provide training to ensure that all employees, contractors and volunteers who are in direct contact with children can recognize the signs of child neglect and abuse and understand their obligation to report. This training shall be reviewed annually.
3. Individuals reporting child abuse or neglect to the Ministry of Children of Families, the Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Service Agency or the RCMP are not to contact the alleged abuser or the parents or guardians of the child.
4. Individuals reporting suspected abuse or neglect of a student are to inform their principal they have done so.
5. If the alleged abuser is an employee, contractor or volunteer of the school district, the principal is to inform the Superintendent of Schools.
6. If the alleged abuser is the principal, the individual making the report is to advise the Superintendent of Schools.

- For further information, please refer to:

*The B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect - For Service Providers*

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resourcedocs/handbook\\_action\\_child\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resourcedocs/handbook_action_child_abuse.pdf)

*Responding to Child Welfare Concerns – Your Role in Knowing When and What to Report*

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resourcedocs/child\\_welfare\\_your\\_role.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resourcedocs/child_welfare_your_role.pdf)

- The contact number for the Ministry for Children and Families is (250) 949-8011. Office hours are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday. If the report is received beyond regular work hours, call the Helpline for Children, 310-1234.
- A person may contact the Duty Worker at Ministry for Children and Families to discuss the appropriateness of a report. The Duty Worker will advise you immediately if you must report the incident.
- If you believe a child is in immediate danger, and/or if a criminal offence against a child has been or is likely to be committed, you should call the police. Call the local RCMP detachment at 911 for emergencies, and for non-emergencies at:

Alert Bay	250-957-5544
Port Alice	250-284-3353
Port Hardy	250-949-6335
Port McNeill	250-956-4441

- Report your concerns to a child welfare worker after you call the police.