



Our Lady of Good Counsel School
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OLGC School Student Abuse Policy

In the event of suspected child abuse staff are to follow the guidelines and policies regarding the reporting for child abuse set out by CISVA Policy # 405 and the Ministry's document entitled, "*Supporting our Students: A Guide for Independent School Personnel Responding to Child Abuse*".

The Appointed School Official (ASO) at OLGC School is the Principal Mr. Gerard Wright and the Alternate Appointed School Official (ASSO) is Vice Principal Mrs. Josie Spagnuolo. If you have questions or concerns about students and families at OLGC School please discuss issues with the Principal and/or Vice Principal.

Rationale:

Every student has a right to a life free of abuse, neglect and violence. Child abuse is a serious societal issue. As "service providers", everyone in CISVA must be aware of signs of child abuse or neglect and know how to respond to them.

Policy

CISVA policies, of which OLGC School is a member, prohibit any form of child abuse, neglect or violence. The Child, Family and Community Service Act requires anyone who has reason to believe that a child has been, or is likely to be at risk, has a legal duty to make a report to a child welfare worker, or directly to the police, if a child is in immediate danger.

At the beginning of each school year, the school principal will review with all school personnel the following 3 documents:

- a. "BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect" (BC Ministry of Children and Family Dev.)
- b. "Responding to Child Welfare Concerns" (BC Ministry of Children and Family Development)
- c. "Supporting our Students: A Guide for Independent School Personnel Responding to Child Abuse".

OLGC School will protect personal information regarding child abuse, neglect or violence against improper or unauthorized disclosure and use. School personnel will report suspected child abuse, neglect or violence immediately. Everyone who has a reason to believe that a child has been, or is likely to be physically harmed, sexually abused or exploited, or neglected by a parent, or otherwise in need of protection as set out in Section 13 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act is legally responsible under section 14 of that Act to report promptly to a social worker. School personnel, who are uncertain about their duty to report, will consult with a social worker who can discuss the options and course of action.

School personnel will inform the principal (or another school official in the event that the principal is the alleged offender) as soon as possible. School personnel will co-operate with the resulting investigation. School personnel will support students who have experienced child abuse, neglect or violence.

Procedure

Anyone who suspects a child is being abused or neglected, has the legal duty to report the concern to a local child welfare worker (contact information is available on page 12 of The B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect. If it is after hours or in the case of uncertainty about who to contact, call the Helpline for Children toll free at 310-1234 (area code not required) at any time of the day or night. The caller's name is not required. **If the child is in immediate danger, call 911.**