

POLICY ON REPORTING ON SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of every school to ensure the safe emotional health of children in its care. It is required of schools that they report cases of abuse to appropriate agencies once a suspicion is aroused.

PURPOSE

To safeguard the physical and emotional safety of children

GUIDELINES

1. Staff who suspect abuse of a student must report the matter to the Guidance Counsellor or Principal
2. It may then be reported to the appropriate agency. If the student discloses information confirming abuse, or if in the opinion of the Principal or Guidance Counsellor the student displays signs of abuse such that a reasonable person would form the conclusion that abuse is a distinct possibility, it must then be reported to the appropriate agency.
3. Confidentiality of the informant is protected at all stages
4. Where a complaint is received against a staff member, by the school, the appropriate procedure as laid down in the relevant employment contract will be followed
5. Staff will be regularly reminded of their duty to report suspected abuse