

System Direction 4 – 1

Child Abuse and Neglect

The Board of Education expects all employees and those contracted to the board to adhere to the policy and regulation. The following general principles shall apply in conjunction with the accompanying regulation and formal Trilateral Protocol:

- that protection of children is of paramount interest to the board, both within its jurisdiction and in society in general.
- that all those employed or contracted by the board have a **legal duty** to report abuse/neglect
- that all those employed or contracted by the board are in a position of trust and their conduct should reflect this trust.
- that collaboration and cooperation with other agencies and ministries is an effective way to promote the best interests of children.
- that employees be informed of the requirements of this policy/regulation during new employee orientation sessions and at the beginning of the year at each school or site.
- that release of information/investigations is subject to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation, and/or any contractual obligations, and the need to avoid prejudging any investigations.

The district shall cooperate with the Ministry for Children and Families and the RCMP and participate in any protocols that are jointly developed. In matters solely under the jurisdiction of the school board this policy and regulations shall take precedence over such protocol(s) should discrepancies arise.