

Child Protection Policy for St Paul's Waiwhetu Community Playgroup: June 2016



This Policy applies to: All people attending St Paul's Waiwhetu Community Playgroup (St Paul's Playgroup)

Purpose: To protect children by:

- Ensuring the safety of the child is always paramount
- Providing each other with support and guidance on identifying and reporting abuse and neglect
- Identifying specific external agencies that can assist with suspected cases of child abuse or neglect

Relevant Legislation: Children and Young Person and their Families Act 1989
Vulnerable Children Act 2014

St Paul's Waiwhetu Policy Commitment:

St Paul's Playgroup members, and the St Paul's Waiwhetu clergy, employees, and congregation, are committed to child protection.

We do this because it is ethically, morally, spiritually, financially and legally the right thing to do.

All St Paul's Playgroup members are responsible for identifying children who may be suffering harm, and will report any concerns in the first instance to the St Paul's Playgroup Supervisor, Amanda Pewhairangi, who under this Policy, is the Designated Person for Child Protection (Designated Person).

All St Paul's Playgroup members will be asked to accept this Policy, as part of their membership rights and duties. Where English is not a family's/whanau first language, St Paul's Playgroup will work with the appropriate agencies to ensure that the Policy is understood and agreed to.

This Policy will be displayed on the St Paul's Playgroup notice board at all times, and will be included in St Paul's Playgroup Introduction Packs.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is defined in the Children and Young Person and their Families Act 1989 as "the harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treatment, neglect or deprivation of any child and young person."

- To recognise signs of abuse and neglect, see the booklet "How can I tell?"

Free training is also available through the Child Youth and Family 'Working Together' seminars. St Paul's Playgroup members are encouraged to attend these.

Procedures:

- If there are concerns that a child may be suffering harm or abuse then the St Paul's

Child Protection Policy for St Paul's Waiwhetu Community Playgroup: June 2016



Playgroup member must share this information. This may be with the Designated Person within the St Paul's Playgroup or the Parent Help Line on 0800568856 for advice on further steps.

- If a child is in immediate danger don't wait. Contact the Police on 111 or Child, Youth and Family helpline on 0508 326 459.
- Before notifying government agencies, it may be appropriate for the Designated Person to seek advice and support from the Priest in Charge of St Paul's Waiwhetu, a local community agency or organisation.
- All concerns raised must be recorded and kept confidential.
- Every situation is different and it is important to consider the whole child's life and environment. In some instances the involvement of government agencies may not be necessary.
- Community agencies provide a network of support services and it is important for St Paul's Playgroup to work with them and respond to the needs of our vulnerable children and family's/whanau. Support and information for our family's/whanau can be sought from the services listed at the end of this Policy.

Safety checking:

- All volunteers and members of St Paul's Playgroup will not be given unsupervised access to children for whom they do not have parental responsibility.
- All volunteers at St Paul's Playgroup will be police checked.
- The St Paul's Playgroup Supervisor, as a paid employee, will have additional safety checks carried out. This will include a police check; identity verification; references; and an interview. A work history will be sought, and previous employers contacted.

St Paul's Playgroup has an important role to play in providing our children with consistent sound and positive guidance as they relate to other children and adults in their environment. (Refer to our St Paul's Playgroup Newcomers Brochure for our agreed Behaviour Management procedures).

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if the legislation changes.

Approved by:		Date:	
Reviewed by parent/s:		Date:	
Reviewed by Vestry:		Date:	
Next review date:	1 May 2019		

For confidential advice and support call:

Parent Help 0800 568 856
 Are you Ok 0800 456 450 (Family Violence
 Info Line)
 Plunket Line (24 hours) 0800 933 922

Health Line (24 hours) 0800787 797
 Barnados for family counselling 0800 474
 736