

Policy Title:

Child Protection Policy

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:

February 2020

NEXT REVIEW DUE

February 2021

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to provide a policy as part of Montessori International College's (MIC) written processes about how the school will respond to harm, or allegations or harm, to students under 18 years old, and the appropriate conduct of the school's staff and students, to comply with accreditation requirements and the relevant legislation listed below.
Scope:	Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience and/or vocational placements at MIC and covers information about the reporting of harm and abuse. The policy applies to all College activities, both on and off-campus.
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Act 1999 (QLD) - Child Protection Regulation 2011 (QLD) - Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (QLD) - Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (QLD) - Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (QLD) - Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017(QLD) - Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (QLD) - Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulations 2011 (QLD) - Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 (QLD)
Legislation	

Revision History

Document Number	Date	Revision Description	Approval
Version 1	February 2020	Review and amend	March 2020
Version 2	May 2020	Review and amend	May 2020

Content

Content	2
Prefer	4
The Governing Body	4
Student Protection Contacts	5
The Law	5
Principles	6
Scope	6
Policy Statement	6
Reporting	7
Reporting Processes	7
Dealing with Report of Inappropriate Behaviour	8
Reporting Sexual Abuse	8
Reporting Likely Sexual Abuse	9
Reporting Physical and Sexual Abuse where the child may not have a parent able and willing to protect them from the harm.	10
Reporting Template	10
Awareness and Implementation	10
Training	11
Consequences of Breach of Policy	11
Protection for Notifier	12
Record Keeping	12
Definitions	13
Legislative References	17
Child Protection Act 1999	17
Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 and Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017	18
Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017	19
Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005	19
Evidence Act 1977	19

APPENDIX A	21
Student Protection Reporting Form	21
APPENDIX B	27
Flowchart 1: Reporting Sexual Abuse and Likely Sexual Abuse	27
APPENDIX C	29
Flowchart 2: Reporting Sexual Abuse & Likely Abuse where the first person is the Principal	29
APPENDIX D	31
Flowchart 3: Reporting Significant Harm to Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women	31
Review of Policy	33

Prefer

Under legislation, duty of care obligations, and the values and philosophy of Montessori International College, the College is committed to providing a safe environment to all Students and to upholding their best interests and wellbeing.

These processes have been developed to meet legislative and procedural processes for responding to, and reporting, abuse, harm and behaviour of a staff member that a student considers is inappropriate.

Nothing that is written in these processes below prevents a staff member or any other person from taking immediate action to notify Queensland Police Service and/or the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, particularly if he/she believes that it is essential to act to ensure a student's safety.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is Montessori International College

The Directors of the Governing Body for Montessori International College are:

Name	Title
Kyle Kimball	President of the Board
Gordon Hogarth	Company Secretary
Dr Marcus Bussey	Board Director
Ken Hogarth	Board Director
Jan Stevenson	Board Director

Responsibilities:

- will discharge their duties in accordance with Regulation 7, 15 and 16;
- will receive regular reports from the Principal at Board Meetings;
- will ensure the College Formal Complaints Policy covers Child Protection complaints;
- will appoint a Designated Director to receive and report (to external authorities) any allegations relating to sexual abuse, including likely sexual abuse.

Designated Board Director (Child Protection) :

- Will be available to receive and to report any allegations of sexual abuse, including likely sexual abuse to the Police.
- Will provide a copy of any mandatory report made to the relevant State authorities to the Notifier (teacher who reported the 'reportable suspicion').

Contact Details for Designated Board Director (Child Protection)

Ms Jan Stevenson

Ph: 0431 248 792 mobile

E: js1108@icloud.com

Student Protection Contacts

The Child Protection Policy provides the written processes for how Montessori International College will respond to allegations of sexual abuse, likely sexual abuse, harm or risk of harm of a student by another person or inappropriate behaviour of a staff member or volunteer to a student.

Allegations and/or concerns of this nature should be reported to any one of the following Student Protection Contact or to the Principal.

As appointed by Chiray Fitton, Principal

Name	Position	Contact Details
Marlene de Beer	School Counsellor	07 5442 3807 Ext: 211
Larissa Rook	Assistant Principal	07 5442 3807 Ext: 113

The Law

The College obligations in relation to this Policy are covered by the following:

- Education (General Provisions Act) 2006
- Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991
- Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005
- Education & Training Amendment Act 2011
- The Criminal Code Qld 1899
- The law of Negligence
- Contract Law
- Work Health & Safety Act 2011
- Child Protection Act, 1999 as amended in 2014

Principles

This Policy is founded on the following principles:

- Every Child has a right to protection from harm.
- The welfare and best interests of the Child are paramount.
- Families have the primary responsibility for the upbringing, protection and development of their Children.
- Under the Contract of Enrolment the College and Parents will work together in the best interests of the Child.
- All actions taken by the College will be in the best interests of the Child and will include the reporting of any suspected criminal behaviours regardless of family issues.
- As part of its pastoral care commitments, the College will provide appropriate support to the Child and family where harm is alleged to have taken place.
- The College will screen new staff / volunteers in relation to their suitability to work with children. [Suitability card & teacher registration will ensure compliance.]
- The College will not tolerate behaviours which breach the law and this Policy. Such behaviours will result in penalties being imposed by the College.
- The College will provide pastoral care to alleged offenders if they are Students or employees of the College.
- The confidentiality of all parties will be respected.

Scope

This Policy and procedures set out the requirements under Regulation 7 and 16 to provide processes which address the protection of Students. It applies to all complaints of sexual and physical abuse, to other types of harm and Inappropriate Behaviour. This document applies to the whole College community, including employees (including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual), contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience and /or vocational placement and students. This policy applies to all College activities, both on and off campus.

Policy Statement

- The College will comply with the mandatory reporting requirements under the law.
- The College has Processes in place allowing it to respond to issues of Student Protection promptly and consistently.
- The College will work in partnership with the State authorities.
- The College will work as appropriate with Family and Child Connect Services.

- The College will work in partnership with parents as part of the Contractual Relationship established by the Enrolment Contract.
- The College will provide appropriate pastoral support for Students and families.
- Penalties for breach of this Policy will attract College-imposed penalties additional to any imposed at law.

Reporting

Reporting Processes

All reports are to be lodged using the MIC Student Protection Reporting Form.

This section of the processes sets out a summary of the actions that must be taken if a staff member has concerns or suspicions, or makes allegations about abuse of, or harm to, a student or if there is a report of behaviour by a staff member that a student considers is inappropriate.

In general terms, the process for responding to and reporting student protection concerns is as follows:

Identify

Identify student protection concerns through recognising the signs of abuse and harm, and through disclosures or receipt of information;

Confer

Seek guidance and support – if necessary, confer with the Principal or appropriate colleagues, to establish whether a ‘reasonable suspicion’ has been formed;

Report

Where a reasonable suspicion of abuse, harm or inappropriate behaviour is formed;

Support

Remain focussed on the support needs of the student and liaise with the Principal around any planning or actions that are required.

Dealing with a Report of Inappropriate Behaviour

A staff member who receives a report of inappropriate behaviour must report it to the Principal. Where the Principal is the subject of the report of inappropriate behaviour, the staff member must inform a member of the school's governing body.

Reporting Sexual Abuse

Section 366 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* states that if a staff member becomes aware, or reasonably suspects in the course of their employment at the school, that any of the following has been sexually abused by another person:

- a student under 18 years attending the school;
- a kindergarten age child registered in a kindergarten learning program at the school;
- a person with a disability who:-
 - under section 420(2) of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* is being provided with special education at the school; and
 - is not enrolled in the preparatory year at the school;

then the staff member must give a written report about the abuse or suspected abuse to the Principal or to a director of the school's governing body immediately.

The school's Principal or the director of the school's governing body must immediately give a copy of the report to a police officer.

If the first person who becomes aware or reasonably suspects sexual abuse is the school's Principal, the Principal must give a written report about the abuse, or suspected abuse to a police officer immediately and must also give a copy of the report to a director of the school's governing body.

If a written report has been provided directly to a director of the school's governing body in the first instance, this report must immediately be given to a police officer.

A report under this section must include the following particulars:

- the name of the person giving the report (the **first person**);
- the student's name and sex;
- details of the basis for the first person becoming aware, or reasonably suspecting, that the student has been sexually abused by another person;
- details of the abuse or suspected abuse;
- any of the following information of which the first person is aware:-
 - the student's age;
 - the identity of the person who has abused, or is suspected to have abused, the student;
 - the identity of anyone else who may have information about the abuse or suspected abuse.

The Student Protection Reporting Form is attached as Appendix A is consistent with these requirements.

Reporting Likely Sexual Abuse

Section 366A of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* states that if a staff member reasonably suspects in the course of their employment at the school, that any of the following is likely to be sexually abused by another person:-

- a student under 18 years attending the school;
- a kindergarten age child registered in a kindergarten learning program at the school;
- a person with a disability who:-
 - under section 420(2) of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* is being provided with special education at the school; and
 - is not enrolled in the preparatory year at the school

then the staff member must give a written report about the suspicion to the Principal or to a director of the school's governing body immediately.

The school's Principal or the director of the school's governing body must immediately give a copy of the report to a police officer.

If the first person who reasonably suspects likely sexual abuse is the school's Principal, the Principal must give a written report about the suspicion to a police officer immediately and must also give a copy of the report to a director of the school's governing body.

A report under this section must include the following particulars:-

- the name of the person giving the report (the first person);
- the student's name and sex;
- details of the basis for the first person reasonably suspecting that the student is likely to be sexually abused by another person;
- any of the following information of which the first person is aware:-
 - the student's age;
 - the identity of the person who has abused, or is suspected to be likely to abuse, the student;
 - the identity of anyone else who may have information about suspected likelihood of abuse.

The Student Protection Reporting Form is attached as Appendix A is consistent with these requirements.

Reporting Physical and Sexual Abuse where the child may not have a parent able and willing to protect them from the harm.

Under Section 13E of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, if a doctor, a registered nurse or a teacher forms a 'reportable suspicion' about a child in the course of their engagement in their profession, they must make a written report.

A **reportable suspicion** about a child is a reasonable suspicion that the child: -

- has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse; and
- may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from the harm.

The doctor, nurse or teacher must give a written report to the Chief Executive of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (or other department administering the *Child Protection Act 1999*). The doctor, nurse or teacher should then give a copy of the report to the Principal.

A report under this section must include the following particulars:-

- state the basis on which the person has formed the reportable suspicion; and
- include the information prescribed by regulation, to the extent of the person's knowledge.

Reporting Template

A reporting template which is compliant with the relevant Regulations and consistent with Education Queensland's SP4 Form is attached as Appendix A.

Awareness and Implementation

If staff members, parents or students require further information in relation to any of the processes described in this document, and/or other student protection compliance requirements, advice should be obtained from the Principal or the College's Student Protection Officers.

The Child Protection policy is present on the schools website and also included in the parent and staff handbooks. Class teachers share information to parents regarding the Child protection policy during our 'Back to School Nights' held in the week before the start of each new school year. The Early Years and Primary teachers are also required to share information to the children in the first weeks of the school year and the Student Protection Officers visit the classrooms during this time. The Secondary College follows similar steps and has also included the Child Protection policy in student school diaries. Included in the Child Protection Policy is information regarding complaints. Suggestions of non-compliance with the schools' processes may be submitted as complaints as per the complaints policy.

Training

At the beginning of every school year during faculty week the college provides in-service training to all staff in legal compliance with Child protection legislation and other matters

contained within the policy. Student Protection Officers are introduced to the whole staff at each in-service training and staff are presented with a number of scenarios to test their knowledge regarding the reporting of harm. All staff new to the College are provided in-service training in legal compliance with Child protection legislation as part of their induction. During the year all staff must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of Child Protection by completing mandatory online testing via SALT (Self administered Legal Training). Mid year the College has Suzanne Brooks [Education Law Specialist Barrister, Suzanne Brooks. B.A.(UQ), M.ED.(NOTRE DAME USA), LLB HONS.(UQ).] visits the school to provide face-to-face training for all staff. This annual visit usually follows the July review of the Child Protection policy. Student Protection Contacts are provided in-service training from the Principal during senior leadership meetings at the beginning of each year and also again mid-year.

Consequences of Breach of Policy

Conduct which breaches this Policy may result in criminal penalties as decided by legal process; in all such cases the Principal will stand down a Staff Member pending the result of investigation by the Police.

Other breaches of this policy, which may not result in external penalties, will result in consequences imposed by the Principal and may include:

- apology
- counselling
- warning
- demotion
- suspension
- standing aside
- termination
- expulsion (in the case of a Student)

Where a complaint / allegation is found to have no substance, every effort will be made to reinstate the alleged offender's status and reputation.

Protection for Notifier

The Child Protection Act 1999 provides for the confidentiality of information supplied by the person making a notification.

Also, Section 22 of the Act provides for the protection from civil liability for persons, who, acting honestly, notify or give information about suspected harm to a Child. It states that merely because the person gives the notification or information, the person cannot be held to have

breached any code of professional etiquette or ethics, or departed from accepted standards of professional conduct.

In accordance with this Act the College will protect the identity of the Notifier of information – unless required otherwise by Law.

Record Keeping

Any Staff Member who has concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a Child, either suspicious or disclosed, **must**:

- keep anecdotal records of observations, focusing on the persistence of indicators over time and the severity of effects;
- if speaking to a Child, keep questions to what/where/when;
- take only short notes – must not investigate;
- present such documentation to a Student Protection Contacts. (Appendix A)

Should the Principal need to interview the Child further, the same procedures must be followed. Records must be kept in a locked file by the Principal.

Definitions

Child

Means a person up to the age of 18 years of age.

Child in need of protection

As defined by section 10 of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, is a child who —

- (a) has suffered significant harm, is suffering significant harm, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm; and
- (b) does not have a [parent](#) able and willing to protect the child from the harm.

Colleague

As defined by section 13H of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, colleague, of a relevant person, means a person working in or for the same entity as the relevant person.

Complainant

The person bringing the Complaint.

Confidentiality

It is important when handling complaints information that the confidentiality of all parties concerned is respected. Information will be regarded as confidential if:

- the information has the necessary quality of confidence/sensitivity' in that any unauthorised use would be detrimental to a party and that:
- It was shared or confided under circumstances where there was a special need for trust between the harassment officer and the complainant, or between the Principal and the alleged offender.
- Information will be shared only if it is necessary to comply with the requirements of this Policy (designated persons) or as required by law.

Designated Board Director

Is the Director appointed unanimously by the Board to receive and report sexual abuse matters regarding Students.

Designated persons

Are persons designated to perform the specific duties, often in the absence or unavailability of senior staff.

Director of the Governing Body

As defined by section 364 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*: director, of a non-State school's governing body, means a director of the governing body within the meaning of the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017*, section 9.

First Person

The “first person” is a staff member who reasonably suspects, in the course of the staff member’s employment at the school, that a student under 18 years attending the school has been sexually abused by another person or is likely to be sexually abused by another person.

Harm

As defined by section 9 of the Child Protection Act 1999:

- Harm, to a child, is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child’s physical, psychological or emotional well-being.
- It is immaterial how the harm is caused.
- Harm can be caused by –
 - Physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect; or
 - Sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Harm can be caused by –
 - A single act, omission or circumstance; or
 - A series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Inappropriate behaviour

Inappropriate behaviour includes but is not limited to any behaviour, including words, towards a student that is contrary to what is required of staff members under the college Code of Conduct. Further, any report from a person, including a student, about a staff member’s behaviour towards a student that the person making the report considers to be inappropriate is to be taken as an allegation of inappropriate behaviour and must be responded to in accordance with the processes contained within this document.

Natural Justice

The principle of natural justice will apply to processes and decisions under this Policy.

The principles of Natural Justice are that:

A person alleged to have behaved inappropriately

- has a right to prompt notification of the Complaint and particulars of what has been allegedly done;
- has the right to respond to the allegations;
- has a right to be heard in an unbiased forum.

Neglect

The term neglect in this Policy may be defined as any act or omission whereby the Child is not cared for in the reasonable opinion of the School. According to the Department of Communities, neglect occurs when a Child’s basic necessities of life are not met, and their health and development are affected. Basic needs include:

- Food
- Housing
- Health care

- Adequate clothing
- Personal hygiene
- Hygienic living conditions
- Timely provision of medical treatment
- Adequate supervision

Notifier

Is a person who brings notice of a Student Protection matter to the attention of the College.

Reasonable suspicion

A reasonable suspicion is a suspicion that would be formed by a reasonable person based on a reasonable view of the evidence available to them. In other words, a reasonable suspicion is an objectively justifiable suspicion that is based on specific facts or circumstances.

Relevant person (Child Protection Act 1999)

A relevant person for the purposes of mandatory reporting under section 13E of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, is any of the following–

- A doctor;
- A registered nurse;
- A teacher;
- A police officer who, under a direction given by the commissioner of the police service under the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*, is responsible for reporting under this section;
- A person engaged to perform a child advocate function under the *Public Guardian Act 2014*.

Reportable suspicion

As defined by section 13E of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, means a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse; and may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from the harm.

Respondent

The person against whom a Complaint is made.

Sexual abuse

As defined by section 364 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*:

Sexual abuse, in relation to a relevant person, includes sexual behaviour involving the relevant person and another person in the following circumstances–

- The other person bribes, coerces, exploits, threatens or is violent toward the relevant person;
- The relevant person has less power than the other person;

- There is a significant disparity between the relevant person and the other person in intellectual capacity or maturity.

Staff member

A staff member is any person who is employed by the College on a casual, fixed term, or continuing basis, pursuant to a contract of employment. Includes all staff, without exception, whether paid or volunteers, eg those involved in teaching or administration, bus drivers, cleaners, groundsmen, sporting coaches, sporting referees, teacher assistants, and volunteers working in any capacity for the College.

Student

A student is any person enrolled as such at the College. This includes a “relevant person” for the purposes of mandatory reporting under sections 366 and 366A of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006:

- A student under 18 years attending the school;
- a kindergarten age child registered in a kindergarten learning program at the school;
- a person with a disability who—
- under section 420(2), is being provided with special education at the school; and
- is not enrolled in the preparatory year at the school.

Student Protection Contact

A Student Protection Contact is one of at least two persons who are nominated by the Principal in compliance with the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017*, [Regulation 16(3)] to whom a student can report behaviour by a staff member that the student considers inappropriate.

Teacher

Means an approved teacher under the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 employed at a school.

Unacceptable Risk

If the report of alleged Inappropriate Behaviour/harm is of such concern that in the reasonable view of the Principal (with consultation) the Respondent implicated would present a danger – that person can be stood down or suspended in the interim.

Unprofessional Conduct

Is any behaviour which, by its nature, is inappropriate, unwise and has potentially damaging consequences.

Vexatious Complaint

A vexatious complaint is a complaint which is ill conceived, has no substance, and which may be brought with ill intent. Vexatious complaints may have serious consequences under the College Policy and legislation.

Legislative References

Child Protection Act 1999

Reporting of a child in need of protection	<p>Section 13A states</p> <p>“(1) Any person may inform the chief executive if the person reasonably suspects—</p> <p>(a) a child may be in need of protection; or</p> <p>(b) an unborn child may be in need of protection after he or she is born.</p> <p>(2) The information given may include anything the person considers relevant to the person’s suspicion.”</p>
Forming a reasonable suspicion of significant harm	<p>Section 13C of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> offers some guidance around forming a reasonable suspicion that a student has suffered, is suffering or is at unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm:</p> <p>(2) (a) whether there are detrimental effects on the child’s body or the child’s psychological or emotional state—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (i) that are evident to the person; or - (ii) that the person considers are likely to become evident in the future; and <p>(b) in relation to any detrimental effects mentioned in paragraph (a)—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (i) their nature and severity; and - (ii) the likelihood that they will continue; and <p>(c) the child’s age.</p> <p>(3) The person’s consideration may be informed by an observation of the child, other knowledge about the child or any other relevant knowledge, training or experience that the person may have.</p>
Reportable suspicions	<p>Section 13E of the Child Protection Act 1999 includes the mandatory reporting requirement for teachers to report a reasonable suspicion to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, that a child has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse where there may not be a parent willing and able to protect the child from the harm (a “reportable suspicion”).</p>

	Section 13G(5) states that a person does not commit an offence under the Child Protection Act 1999 or any other act for failing to make a mandatory report under section 13E.
Conferral with colleagues	13H of the Child Protection Act 1999 - Conferrals with colleague and related information sharing, states that: (1) A relevant person may give information to a colleague, and a colleague may give information to a relevant person, for any of the following purposes— (a) for the relevant person to form a suspicion about whether a child has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse; (b) in the case of a relevant person under section 13E—for the relevant person to form a suspicion about whether a child has a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm mentioned in paragraph (a); (c) for the relevant person to give a report under section 13G or keep a record about giving a report; (d) for the relevant person or colleague to take appropriate action to deal with suspected harm or risk of harm to a child.
Interviews with Children at School	Section 17 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> provides Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Queensland Police Service officers with the legislative authority to have contact with a child at a school prior to the parents being told of the contact with the child and the reasons for the contact, as part of an investigation and assessment.

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 and Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017

The Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 establishes an accreditation regime for the accreditation of non-state schools. The Act also establishes the penalties for non-compliance with the accreditation criteria.

The Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 prescribes the accreditation criteria relevant for a non-state school's accreditation as mentioned in section 11 of the Act. The *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 Part 2 Accreditation Criteria* - Section 16(1) to 16(7) deals with the accreditation requirements relating to the conduct of staff and students and response to harm.

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017

The Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 contains mandatory reporting requirements for all non-state school staff who become aware of or who reasonably suspect that a student has been sexually abused or is likely to be sexually abused by another person (sections 366 and 366A).

These requirements are designed to capture sexual abuse, suspected sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse of students by another person. A staff member or Principal who fails to comply with the mandatory reporting requirements in relation to the sexual abuse or suspected sexual abuse of a student commits an offence under section 366 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* and is liable for a penalty of up to 20 penalty units. However, a person does not commit an offence for failing to report the likely sexual abuse of a student under section 366A of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*.

Staff making a report pursuant to the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* will be protected from civil or criminal liability e.g. from defamation or breach of confidence. However, staff making a knowingly false, malicious or vexatious report will not be protected by this immunity and may risk action for defamation, disciplinary action by their employer or disciplinary action by the Queensland College of Teachers.

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005

The *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005* requires an employing authority to notify the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT):

- about particular allegations
 - as soon as practicable, after starting to deal with an allegation of harm or likely harm to a child due to the teacher's conduct (section 76)
- about the outcome of particular allegations
 - as soon as practicable, after dealing with the allegation, the employing authority must also inform QCT of the outcome (section 77)
- about certain dismissals
 - an employing authority must notify QCT within 14 days if the authority has dismissed a teacher in circumstances that call the teacher's competence to be employed as a teacher into question (section 78).

Evidence Act 1977

Section 93A provides the legislative authority for the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to conduct an interview and obtain a recorded statement from a child under 16 years, or a person who was 16 or 17 years when the statement

was made and who, at the time of the proceeding, is a special witness, or an intellectually impaired person who has personal knowledge of the matters dealt with by the statement.

APPENDIX A

Student Protection Reporting Form

Student Protection Report

For reporting an allegation of sexual abuse, suspected sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse of a student by another person; a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm and may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm. Once completed, this form MUST be sent to the Queensland Police Service and/or the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Regional Intake Service as required.

This form meets the reporting requirements under sections 366 and 366A of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, section 13E of the *Child Protection Act 1999* and regulation 10 of the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001*.

Date of Report

PART A: The following sections to be completed by the person making this report: *(include as much detail as possible based on the information known)*

TYPE OF REPORT

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Likely Sexual Abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Harm | <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable Risk of Significant Harm |

DETAILS OF THE PERSON MAKING THIS REPORT (The 'First Person')

Name	<input type="text" value="Enter Name."/>	Position/Role	<input type="text" value="Enter Position"/>
School/Workplace	<input type="text" value="Click or tap here to enter text."/>		
Address	<input type="text" value="Click or tap here to enter text."/>		
Suburb	<input type="text" value="Suburb."/>	State	<input type="text" value="State"/>
Postcode	<input type="text" value="Postcode"/>	Phone	<input type="text" value="Phone"/>

STUDENT AND FAMILY DETAILS

DETAILS OF THE STUDENT SUBJECT OF THIS REPORT:

Name	<input type="text" value="Click or tap here to enter text."/>				
D.O.B.	<input type="text" value="D.O.B."/>	Age	<input type="text" value="Age"/>	Gender	<input type="text" value="Gender"/>
Year Level	<input type="text" value="Year"/>				
Residential address	<input type="text" value="Click or tap here to enter text."/>				
Suburb	<input type="text" value="Suburb."/>	State	<input type="text" value="State"/>	Postcode	<input type="text" value="Postcode"/>
Phone	<input type="text" value="Phone"/>				
Does the student have a disability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Type/nature of disability:	<input type="text" value="Type of disability"/>	
Impact of disability on interview process:	<input type="text" value="Click or tap here to enter text."/>				
Cultural Background	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify:	<input type="text" value="Other"/>	
Does the student speak English?	<input type="text" value="Please Select"/>		If no, please specify language:	<input type="text" value="Other"/>	
Is an interpreter required?	<input type="text" value="Please Select"/>				

PARENT/GUARDIAN DETAILS

Parent 1

Parent/Guardian name	Parent/Guardian Name.	Relationship to student	Relationship
Address (if different from student)		Click or tap here to enter text.	
Suburb	Suburb	State	Choose an item.
Postcode	Postcode	Postcode	Postcode
Phone (Home)	Home Phone	(Work)	Work Phone
(Mobile)	Mobile Phone	(Mobile)	Mobile Phone

Parent 2

Parent/Guardian's name	Parent/ Guardian Name	Relationship to student	Relationship
Address (if different from student)		Click or tap here to enter text.	
Suburb	Suburb	State	Choose an item.
Postcode	Postcode	Postcode	Postcode
Phone (Home)	Home Phone	(Work)	Work Phone
(Mobile)	Mobile Phone	(Mobile)	Mobile Phone

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD (IF KNOWN)

Name	Age	Gender	Relationship to Student
Click or tap here to enter text.	Age	Gender	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Age	Gender	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Age	Gender	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Age	Gender	Click or tap here to enter text.

ALLEGATION DETAILS

ALLEGATION MADE AGAINST (if more than one person is reported please attach on additional page)

Name	Name	Age	Age	Gender	Gender
Address					
Click or tap here to enter text.					
Suburb	Suburb	State	State	Postcode	Postcode
Phone	Phone	Phone	Phone	Phone	Phone
Relationship to student subject of this report					
Click or tap here to enter text.					

Is the allegation against a staff member or volunteer?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Type of abuse (tick as many as apply) ☐ Sexual Abuse ☐ Physical Abuse ☐ Emotional/Psychological Abuse ☐ Neglect

Type of harm (tick as many as apply) ☐ Physical Harm ☐ Emotional Harm ☐ Psychological Harm

DETAILS OF THE BASIS FOR THE FIRST PERSON BECOMING AWARE OR REASONABLY SUSPECTING THAT THE STUDENT HAS BEEN ABUSED OR HARMED

Date of allegation/disclosure/suspicion	Click or tap here to enter text.
How and where was the allegation/disclosure made or suspicion formed? Eg disclosure, observation, information from another person	Click or tap here to enter text.

What concerns have led you to form a reasonable suspicion of abuse or significant harm? (include as much information as possible, including: what happened, where did it happen, when did it happen, who was involved)

Click or tap here to enter text.

What have you noticed about the student's appearance and/or behaviour?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Does the student have a current physical injury or have they experienced a physical injury as a result of the incidents? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

If yes please provide details and describe the injury:

Click or tap here to enter text.

If yes to physical injury, did the student require medical treatment or does the child require medical treatment? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

If yes, was/has medical treatment been provided to the student? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

If yes, provide details of what treatment has or is being provided:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Are there any immediate safety concerns for the student? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐

If yes, provide details of the immediate safety concerns:

Click or tap here to enter text.

DETAILS OF PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION AROUND ALLEGED ABUSE OR HARM (if more than one person please attach on additional page)

Name	Name	Age	Age	Gender	Gender
Address	Click or tap here to enter text.				
Suburb	Suburb	State	State	Postcode	Postcode
Relationship to student subject of this report	Click or tap here to enter text.				
Email address (if known:)	Click or tap here to enter text.				

PART B:

The following sections to be completed by the Principal/Director of the Governing Body:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CURRENT OR PREVIOUS ORDERS AND INTERVENTION:

Family Court Order?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Details	<input type="text"/>		
Domestic Violence Order?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Details	<input type="text"/>		
Child Protection Order?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Details	<input type="text"/>		
Departmental Intervention?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Details	<input type="text"/>		
Previous Student Protection Reports?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Details	<input type="text"/>		
Referral to Support Service?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Details	<input type="text"/>		

Are there any risk factors which may be impacting negatively on the student or family? For example: domestic violence, alcohol/substance misuse, disability, mental health instability, physical/intellectual disability

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Unknown** ☐

If yes provide details:

Is the parent/caregiver aware of the concerns?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Unknown** ☐

If yes provide details:

What other services or supports are currently in place to support the student and their family (if known)?

Any other relevant information:

DETAILS OF THE PERSON SUBMITTING THIS REPORT

Name	<input type="text"/>		Position/Role	<input type="text"/>	
School/Workplace	<input type="text"/>				
Address	<input type="text"/>				
Suburb	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>	Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>				
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>				

REPORT SENT TO:

☐ Queensland Police Service – where the allegation is of sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse of a student

Details:

☐ Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Regional Intake Service - where the allegation is that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm and may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm

Details:

☐ Director of the Governing Body - where the Principal is the first person in relation to an allegation of sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse of a student, OR where the allegation is against the Principal

Details:

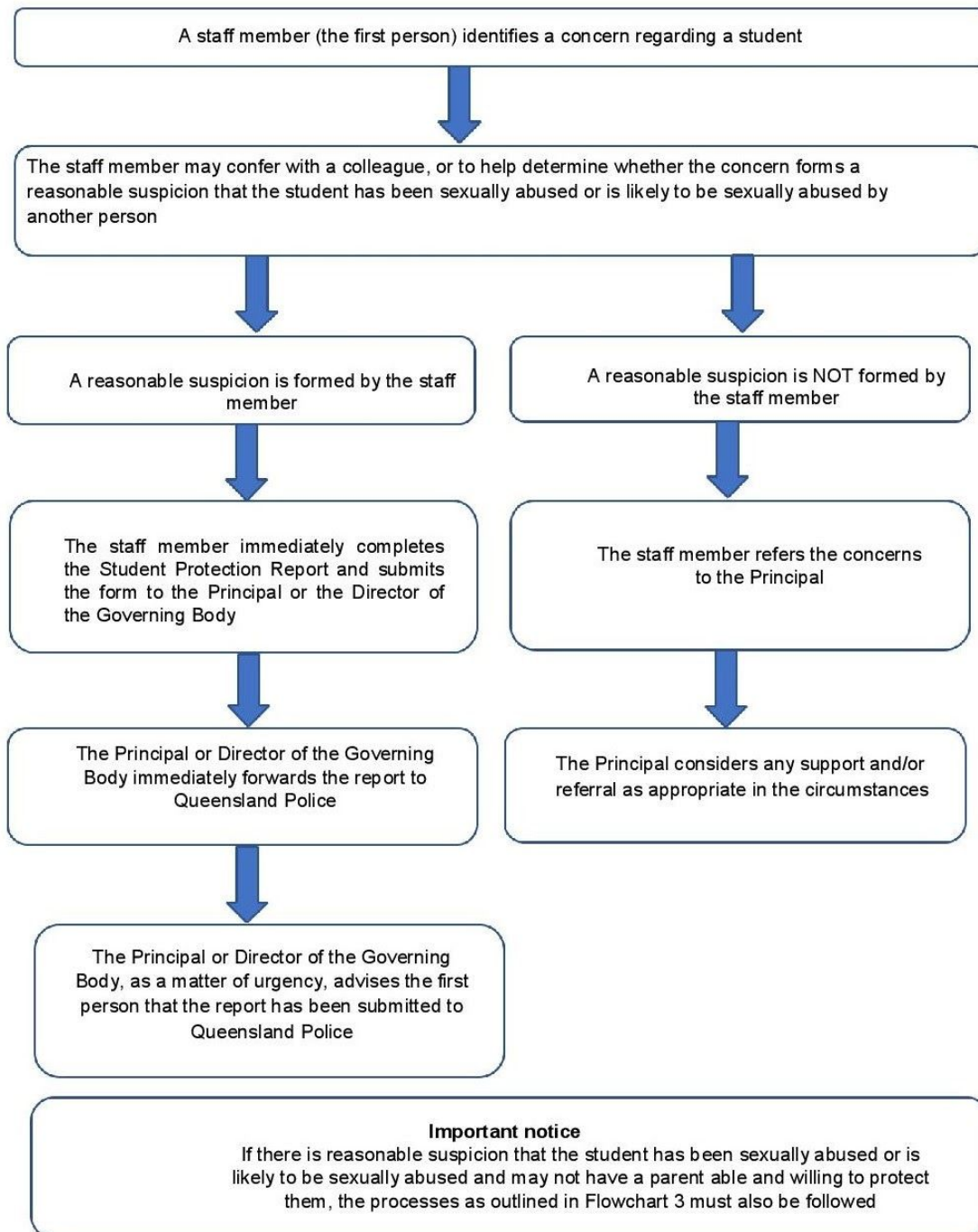
Date Report submitted

Important Notice: Once submitted to the Principal or Director of the Governing Body this form **MUST** be sent, as a matter of urgency, to the Queensland Police Service and/or the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services as required.

APPENDIX B

Flowchart 1: Reporting Sexual Abuse and Likely Sexual Abuse

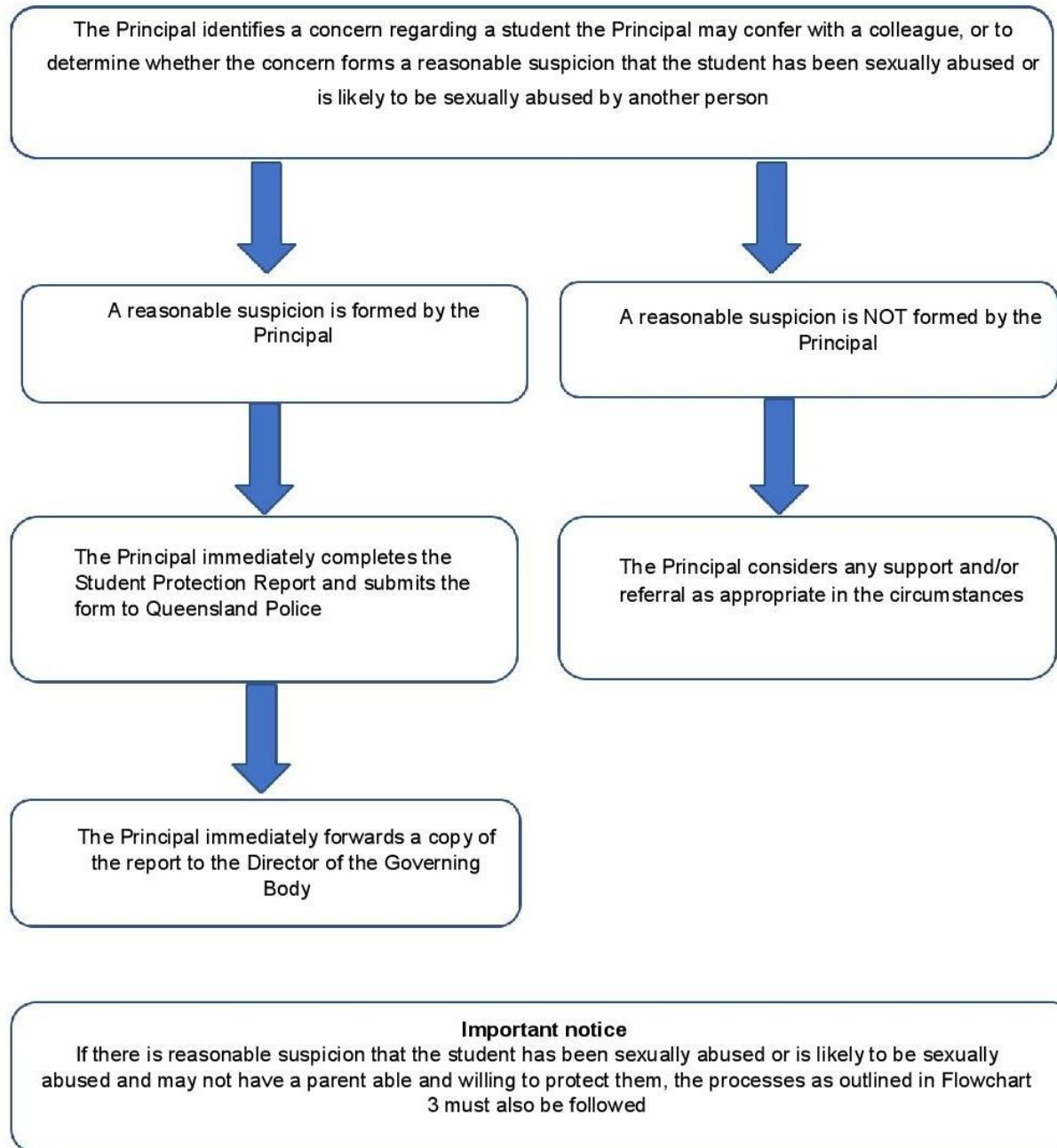
Flowchart 1: Reporting Sexual Abuse & Likely Sexual Abuse



APPENDIX C

Flowchart 2: Reporting Sexual Abuse & Likely Abuse where the first person is the
Principal

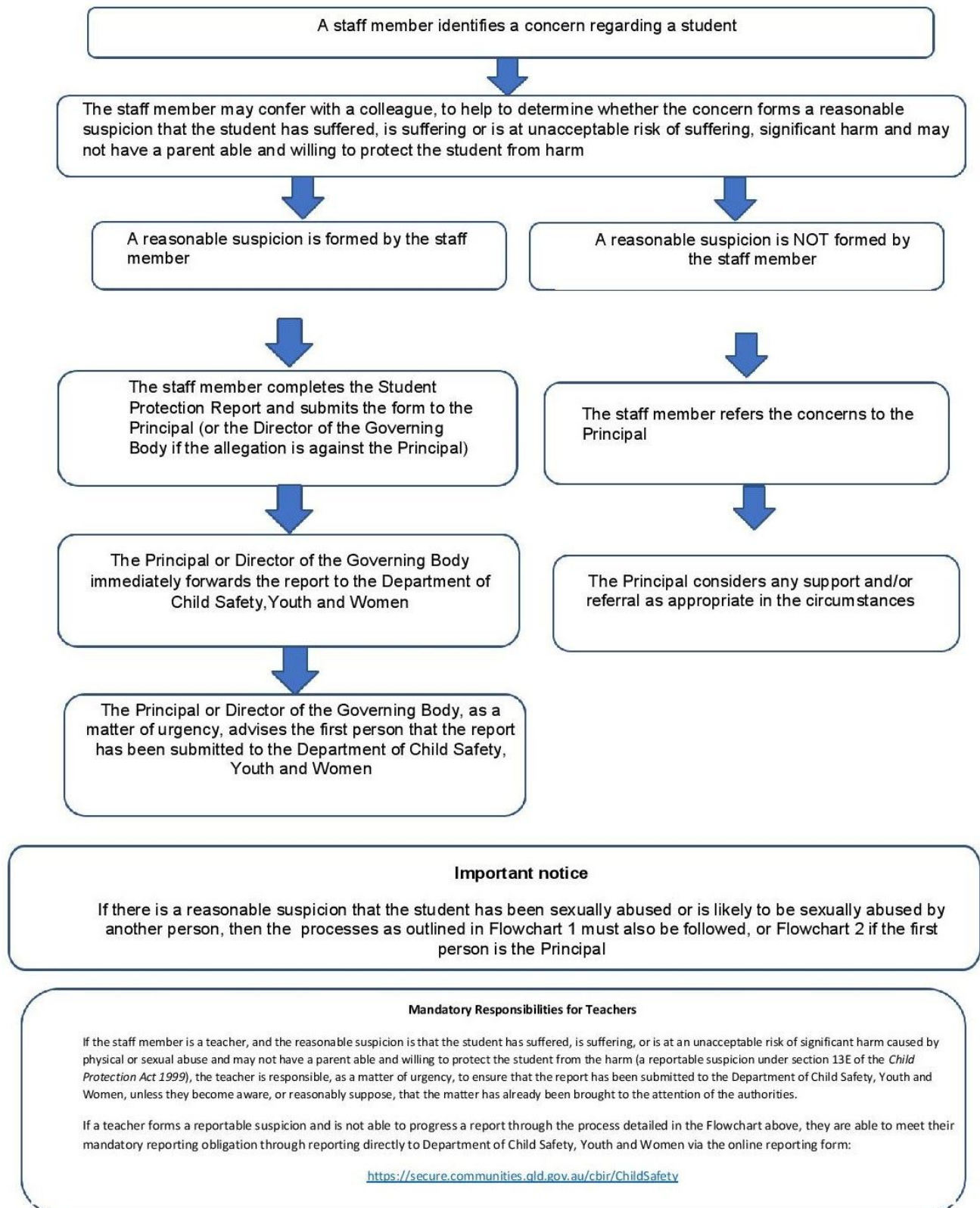
Flowchart 2: Reporting Sexual Abuse & Likely Sexual Abuse where the first person is the Principal



APPENDIX D

Flowchart 3: Reporting Significant Harm to Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Flowchart 3: Reporting Significant Harm to Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women



Review of Policy

This Policy was reviewed and amended in February 2020. The next review is scheduled for February 2021.

END OF DOCUMENT