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REPORTING PROCEDURE: CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD NEGLECT

A. Awareness

1. It is the role of school personnel to recognize the vulnerability of school-age children to abuse, to be alert to any physical signs of abuse, and/or signs of neglect, and to recognize signs of undue mental or emotional strain on the part of the child.
2. It is a responsibility of the Kelsey School Division and its principals to institute regular inservice training of teachers in school to ensure that teachers are aware of the symptoms of abuse, the typical reactions and attitudes of abusing parents, the teacher's role in reporting, and the reporting procedure to be used.

B. Reporting Procedure

1. All Kelsey School Division personnel are required to report any student whom they have reason to believe is in need of protection. This reporting will be done in accordance to current Child and Family Services Act legislation.
2. Any staff who files a report in accordance to the Child & Family Services Act legislation shall also inform their immediate supervisor that a report has been filed.

C. Prevention

1. It is an important aspect of the approach to dealing with child abuse and child neglect that the school curriculum incorporate concepts which will be useful to students caught up in such situations. For example, at the elementary level, there should be periodic awareness sessions conducted by teachers to ensure students are aware of dangerous situations, their right to protection from a frightening situation, and that children are provided with sufficient vocabulary to articulate their concerns.
2. Kelsey School Division's Family Life Program, and relevant provincial curriculum shall be utilized. Kelsey School Divisional personal safety programs may be used to enhance the awareness in students.
3. At the senior years level, it is important to assist students to understand child and adolescent development stages and to help them to develop a knowledge of adequate child rearing and parenting skills to better prepare them to undertake the important responsibility of parenthood. This policy supplements and is in keeping with existing provincial curriculum and Legislation.