

# Prevention of Abuse, Harassment or Neglect of Boarders Policy

## Purpose

InZone Education Foundation wishes to establish proper procedures to be followed if there is a report of child abuse or suspected child abuse, harassment or serious neglect and to provide guidelines for the implementation of Regulation 58 of the Education (Hostels) Regulations 2015.

## Policy

1. Any report or suspicion that a boarder is experiencing abuse must be taken seriously and subsequent action must be based on the paramount principle that the interests of the child come first.
2. Any concern in relation to abuse should immediately be advised to the Senior Boarding Manager or directly to the Chief Executive Officer. Where advice is given to the Duty Manager, the Duty Manager will notify the Senior Boarding Manager or directly to the Chief Executive Officer at the earliest opportunity.
3. The Chief Executive Officer will make a procedural decision in relation to the disclosure, based on 'a belief on reasonable grounds', after considering the source of the information, and any relevant physical, behavioural or circumstantial evidence available at the time:
  - (a) The Chief Executive Officer will advise the person whose actions have led to the disclosure of the allegation and ask for a response within a reasonable period of time.
  - (b) If the Chief Executive Officer (as the Proprietor's authorised representative) considers that it is necessary to ensure that no further inappropriate behaviour towards any boarder occurs he will require the person (whether a member of the hostel's staff or boarder or other person) who may have / be abusing, harassing or seriously neglecting a boarder to stay off the hostel premises.
4. Where the Chief Executive Officer forms the belief that abuse, harassment or serious neglect of a boarder has taken place then written notice of this must be given to at least one of the following within 24 hours: the parents of the boarder concerned, Oranga Tamariki, or the New Zealand Police.
5. The Chief Executive Officer will issue guidelines and give direction as to the application of the above policy to kāinga staff.

**Refer:** HR Policies - Harassment  
Hostel Relationships Policy