



Title: **DEALING WITH ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF STUDENTS**
Adopted: September 16, 2010
Reviewed: September 2, 2013, November 2021
Revised: October 2016, March 2017
Authority: Child and Family Services Act
Youth Criminal Justice Act
Related: Procedures HS - 001

POLICY

It is the policy of Bloorview School Authority that each and every student be provided with a safe, nurturing, positive and respectful learning environment.

PRINCIPLES

1. The Bloorview School Authority has a legislated duty to prevent, detect, intervene in and report abuse or neglect of any students in accordance with Sec. 72 of the child and Family Services Act (Appendix A).
2. Early identification of child abuse and neglect can occur through disclosure or as the result of reasonable suspicions on the part of Bloorview School Authority employees and volunteers. Reporting disclosures or suspicions may not only prevent future victimization of children, it may also permit both the victim and perpetrator to receive the help they need. Early intervention may ameliorate the long-term effects of abuse and break the ongoing cycle of further victimization and harm.
3. For the purpose of this policy, abuse is any form of physical harm, sexual mistreatment, emotional harm, or neglect, which can result in injury or psychological damage. The four categories of abuse of students are described in Procedures HS - #1.
4. No student shall experience corporal punishment, physical mistreatment, sexual emotional or verbal abuse by staff. In addition, students shall be protected from violence and harassment, including threats and/or bullying and inappropriate sexual behaviour by other students.
5. Bloorview School Authority will educate all of its students about their right to live without fear of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect and will support disclosure of such abuse.

6. Bloorview School Authority will hold all employees and volunteers accountable for the following:
 - a) For any Bloorview School Authority staff or volunteers working directly with a student of any age in their professional capacity (see (b) below), entering into a non-professional breach of trust relationship with that student (or a former student under the age of 18) is a criminal offence.
 - b) Professional capacity shall mean working or volunteering at Bloorview School otherwise supervising, counselling, coaching or assisting in extra curricular activities in which the student is participating, regardless of which school the student is enrolled.
7. Bloorview School Authority will ensure that all prospective employees are screened for records of criminal conviction for sexual offences and offences involving children. All existing staff shall complete an annual offence declaration.
8. The Ministry of Child and youth Services has produced a brochure available at the following website:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/childrensaid/reportingabuse/abuseandneglect.aspx>