

PRINCE ALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 6

POLICY ITEM: Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect	CODE: IGE
LEGAL STATUS: The Child and Family Services Act; Provincial Child Abuse Protocol 2023; Board Motions #252.12; #254.14; #329.17; #65.24	DATE APPROVED: 24 Nov 14, 18 Dec 17, 18 March 24

Background:

The Saskatchewan Child Abuse Protocol is a commitment by the Saskatchewan government, police, professionals, and organizations to collaborate in an effort to prevent and investigate child abuse and provide support to child victims of abuse. All citizens have the duty to report suspicions of child abuse. Failure to report suspicions of child abuse may result in further abuse, harm or death of a child. Violence in the family is often physically and always emotionally devastating, for both the child(ren) and the entire family.

The identification, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect requires the close collaboration of child caring agencies, law enforcement units, health care workers, educators and all whose concerns impact the lives of children. The duty to report is a personal "Duty to Report" and cannot be delegated to another individual (Child Abuse Protocol 2017).

Policy:

The Prince Albert Board of Education directs that all school division staff who are aware or suspicious of child abuse or neglect report this matter immediately to child protection services and/or police in accordance with the Child and Family Services Act. Furthermore, that administration and staff strictly adhere to the current protocol agreement between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services and school division guidelines.

Guidelines:

1. The employee reports all suspected cases of child abuse directly to the Ministry of Social Services, Prince Albert City Police, After Hours Crisis Services or the First Nations Child and Family Services.
2. The employee notifies the principal that a report has been made to the Ministry of Social Services or the City Police.
3. The principal notifies the Director of Education or designate that a report has been made to the Ministry of Social Services or the City Police.
4. A written report of the suspected abuse and/or neglect is to be filled out by the reporting school division staff member and copies sent to those listed on the school division form.
5. Authorized investigating personnel will conduct interviews in schools. After the interview is completed the investigating personnel will complete the investigation reporting form and will forward the original copy to the Director or designate.
6. Strict confidentiality with respect to the details of the case, documentation and records shall be maintained.
7. Any communication or contact with parents or guardians in regard to the alleged abuse and/or neglect is the responsibility of the investigating agency.
8. There will be no communication or contact with parents and/or guardians by the principal or a member of the school staff regarding the alleged abuse and/or neglect.