



NAME: 04.04 CHILD ABUSE REPORTING PROTOCOLS	VERSION: 4
ADOPTED: March 10, 2014 AMENDED: June 6, 2015 January 27, 2020 September 27, 2021	REVIEW: 2024-2025

REVIEW EVERY 3 YEARS OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH MINISTRY CHANGES

PREAMBLE

Children are a gift/heritage/reward from God (Ps. 127:3) and are to be cherished. The family is the primary care giver for children. RCS assists families in the education process and works for the best of each student. The role of the school is to defend and protect students who are the focal point.

Families at RCS agree to live under God’s authority. God clearly sets out His expectations for behavior of people and they can expect to be respected and cared for. The Scriptures give direct instructions to fathers. Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4 state that fathers are not to “provoke or exasperate” their children. Caregivers, whether mothers or fathers, must be careful how they treat their children. God puts the responsibility for the child on the adult.

Parents and teachers can accept the fact that children will behave inappropriately from time to time. In these situations, adults are not to lose control and hurt the child but are to nurture and train them to behave properly.

Individuals who mistreat children will experience consequences. Adults who cause children to suffer will themselves be held accountable (Luke 17:2-3a). When children do suffer mistreatment at the hands of an adult, it must not be hidden but must be dealt with for the benefit of everyone concerned (Matthew 18:15-17).

In unfortunate circumstances dealing with child abuse and neglect, the goal of RCS is to seek forgiveness and restoration but there will be times when protection must be provided and the law must be applied.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 14 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) requires individuals to report promptly to a child welfare worker if they have reason to believe a child has been or is likely to be: physically harmed, sexually abused or exploited, or neglected by a parent or another person, or otherwise in need of protection as set out in Section 13 of the CFCSA.

REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

1. The *BC Handbook for Action on child Abuse and Neglect for Service Providers* updated in 2017 sets out the specific practices and procedures that must be followed by RCS employees when a child abuse allegation is brought to their attention.
2. This document must be reviewed annually with all RCS employees.
3. The campus principal or vice principal is designated as the “Appointed School Official (ASO)” for their respective campus. The Safe School Coordinator is designated as the “Alternate Appointed School Official (AASO)”. The primary role of the Alternate Appointed School Official (AASO) is to report the Appointed School Official, in the event that the ASO is the perpetrator.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

4. Additional references and resources that should be referenced if a matter does come to the attention of the Superintendent or campus Principal include current publications and guidelines from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
 - a. *Child, Family and Community Service Act*
 - b. *The BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect – For Service Providers* available online from the MCFD
 - c. *Responding to Child Welfare Concerns – Your Role in Knowing When and What to Report* available online from the MCFD
 - d. *The Criminal Code of Canada*
 - e. *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
 - f. *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
5. Suicide resources include www.suicideinfo.ca or 1-800-SUICIDE