

# Ashburton Borough School

"Labor Omnia Vincit"

11/92

## CHILD ABUSE/DISCLOSURE POLICY

### RATIONALE

- Because the wellbeing of children is paramount the Board of Trustees and Staff undertake to recognise the possibility of abuse of children in their care. A description of behaviour that may indicate abuse is included as an attachment of this policy.

### GUIDELINES

- 1a. If a teacher is aware of the possibility of abuse the following immediate actions should be taken:
  - Listen to the child, but do not question the situation or offer advice. Refer the matter to the Principal or to a senior staff member who will notify CYFS.
- 1b. If a child has disclosed information about abuse, the following immediate actions should be taken:
  - Listen to the child, but do not question the situation or offer advice. Refer the matter to the Principal or to a senior staff member who will notify CYFS.
  - There will be a referral of the case to the appropriate agency, and immediate action will be taken if the child is deemed to be not safe.
- 1c. Anyone suspecting any form of abuse can report directly to a specialist agency e.g. Police, CYFS.
2. Agencies that can be contacted include:

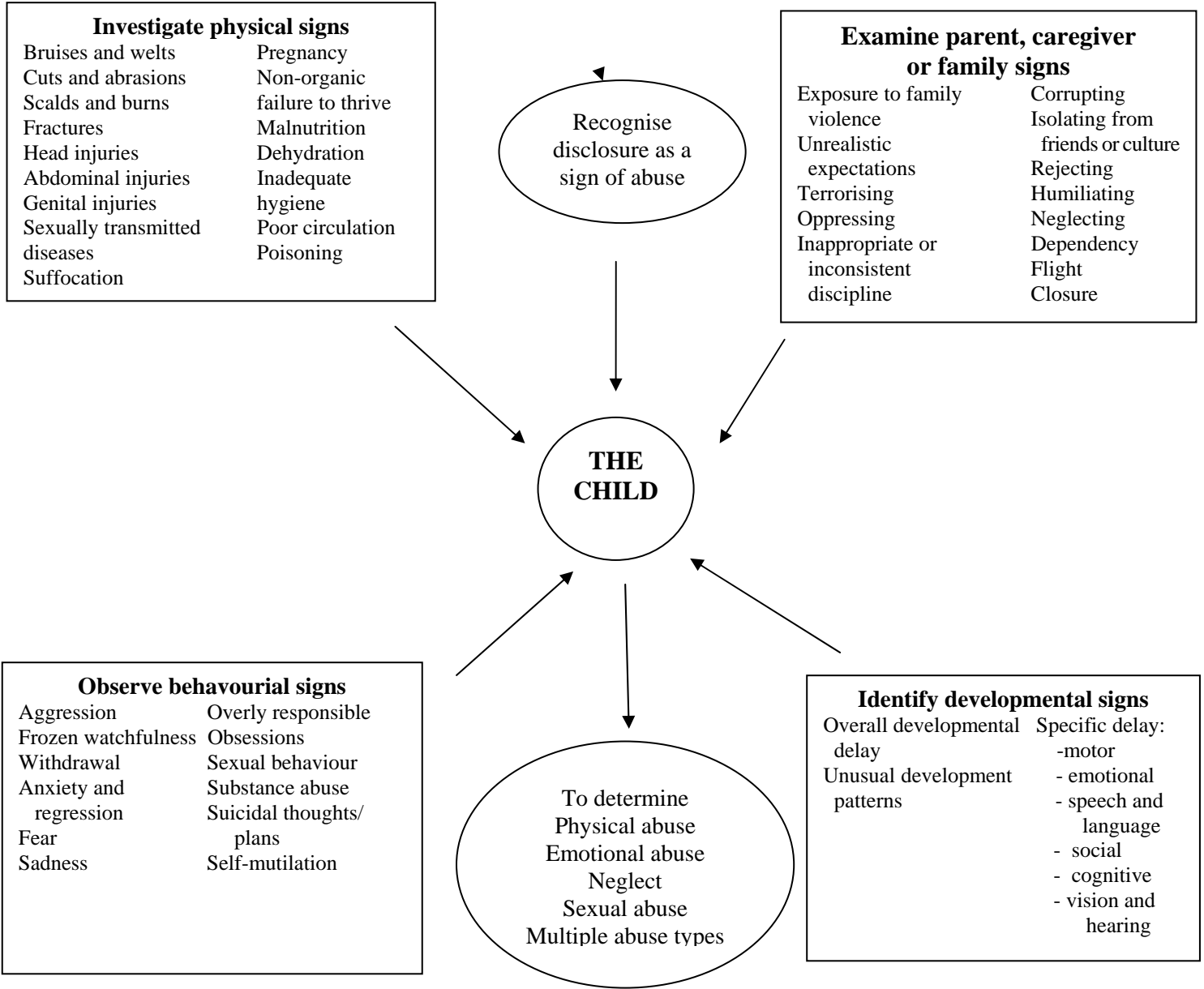
Public Health Nurse	CYFS
Police	Doctor
3. After consulting an appropriate agency, staff can offer support to the child by providing a warm, caring atmosphere where the child feels safe and secure.
4. Liaison between the school and an agency concerned should be maintained.
5. The Principal and staff will keep accurate records of any abuse reported at the school.
6. Confidentiality will be of paramount importance at all times.
7. No person of whom an accusation of abuse has been made can be held to be above suspicion.
8. If the Principal or staff member is implicated as being responsible for abuse, the Principal or staff member shall contact the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees immediately. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that the interests of the staff member and those of the child are met.
9. Any person reporting an incident of suspected child abuse is protected from criminal, civil or disciplinary action by Section 16 of the Children, young persons and their families Act.

.....  
**Chairperson, Board of Trustees**

**Date .....**

To be read in conjunction with Attachment A Signs of Abuse and Neglect

***Signs and abuse neglect***



An interagency guide to Breaking Cycle from Let's Stop Child Abuse Together Child, Youth and Family 2001

To be read in conjunction with Signs of Abuse and Neglect.

Further detailed signs of abuse and neglect information is available from the school office Policy Folder.