

## **WAIKOWHAI INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY**

### **Purpose:**

To provide a detailed outline and step by step method of handling suicide/sudden death or traumatic events and to prevent the contagion effect by:

- Establishing structures and networks to deal with sudden death/ suicide/traumatic events.
- Training staff to recognise early warning signs and to act on them.
- Establishing grieving and debriefing procedures.
- Facilitating the recovery process.

### **Policy:**

1. All staff must understand the crisis support process and be aware of the composition and purpose of the crisis support team.
2. The overriding need throughout is to create safety for staff and students of the school.
3. The grieving of all students and staff must be accepted as genuine. The significance of relationship to the person/s affected is irrelevant. Suicide/sudden death/traumatic events may trigger grief from past events in people's lives.
4. In the event of a death, students and staff must be given the opportunity to express grief. A comforting and reassuring environment, offering counselling and support, is necessary for this to happen.
5. Members of the crisis team must have available to them opportunities for counselling and support.
6. An open and honest approach to death and trauma is helpful in avoiding an atmosphere of 'romantic tragedy' in the school. Suicide should be described as the irreversible choice of an individual who may well have been feeling depressed, stressed, lonely or alienated.
7. The normal school programme must be maintained throughout as far as possible.

Crisis Action Plan/Traumatic Incident Response Plan (TIRP) provides the framework for crisis situations and will be dealt to in the light of those circumstances.

Passed by the Board of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_