



Education

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner

Learning with head, heart and hands

Theft and Fraud Prevention Policy

Introduction

- 1) The Proprietors Trust accepts that it is accountable for safeguarding the physical and financial resources of the Trust, including the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten, Playgroup and After School Group. The Trust has agreed that through the Management Team, the Trust has a responsibility to prevent and detect theft and fraudulent actions by persons who are employed or contracted by them or who are part of the Trust Community. The Trust accepts that any investigation into any theft or fraudulent actions will be conducted in a manner that conforms to the principles of natural justice and is procedurally just and fair.
- 2) The Trust, therefore, requires the Management Team to establish systems and procedures to guard against the actions of theft and fraud. The Management Team is to report such actions to the Proprietors Trust as prescribed in the procedures set out below.

General

- 3) As preventative measures against theft and fraud the Proprietors Trust requires the Management Team to ensure that:
 - a) The Trust's physical resources are kept secure and accounted for.
 - b) The Trust's financial systems are designed to prevent and detect the occurrence of fraud. (All such systems must meet the requirements and standards as set out in the Public Finance Act 1989, Section 45C(b) and of generally accepted accounting practice promulgated and supported by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand : assurance on this is provided by the annual audit) .
 - c) Staff members who are formally delegated responsibility for the custody of physical and financial resources by the Kindergarten Manager are proven competent to carry out such responsibilities and that such persons are held accountable for the proper execution of their responsibilities.
 - d) All staff members are aware of their responsibility to immediately inform the Kindergarten Manager should they suspect or become aware of any improper or fraudulent actions by staff, suppliers, contractors, students or other persons associated with the Trust.
- 4) In the event of an allegation of theft or fraud the Management Team shall act in accordance with the following procedures:
 - a) Decide to either immediately report the matter to the New Zealand Police or proceed as outlined in this paragraph.

- b) So far as it is possible and within 24 hours:
 - i) Record the details of the allegation, the person or persons allegedly involved, and the quantity and/or value of the theft or fraud.
 - ii) Request a *written statement* from the person who has informed the Management Team, with details as to the nature of the theft or fraud, the time and circumstances in which this occurred, and the quantity and/or value of the theft.
 - iii) Decide on the initial actions to be taken including consulting with the person who provided the information and, if appropriate, confidentially consulting with other members of staff about the person who is the subject of the allegation.
 - iv) Inform the Proprietors Trust Chairperson of the information received and consult with them as appropriate.
- c) On the basis of advice received and after consultation with the above, the Management Team shall decide whether or not a *prima facie* case of theft or fraud exists, and if not, to document this decision and record that no further action is to be taken.
- d) The Management Team shall then carry out the following procedures:
 - i) Investigate the matter further in terms of procedures as set out in subparagraph (d);
 - ii) If a *prima facie* case is thought to exist to continue with their investigation;
 - iii) Invoke any disciplinary procedures contained in the contract of employment should the person be a staff member;
 - iv) Lay a complaint with the New Zealand Police;
 - v) If necessary, commission an independent expert investigation;
 - vi) In the case of fraud, require a search for written evidence of the possible fraudulent action to determine the likelihood or not of such evidence;
 - vii) Seek legal advice; or
 - viii) Inform the Manager, National Operations, Ministry of Education local office and/or the Trust's auditors.
- e) Once all available evidence is obtained the Management Team shall consult the Proprietors Trust Chairperson. The Chairperson may, if they consider it necessary, seek legal or other advice as to what further action should be taken.
- f) If a case is considered to exist the Management Team or a person designated by them shall, unless another course of action is more appropriate:
 - i) Inform the person in writing of the allegation that has been received and request a meeting with them at which their representative or representatives are invited to be present.
 - ii) Meet with the person who is the subject of the allegation of theft or fraud and their representatives to explain the complaint against them.
 - iii) Obtain a verbal or preferably a written response (all verbal responses must be recorded as minutes of that meeting, and the accuracy of those minutes should be attested by all persons present).
 - iv) Advise the person in writing of the processes to be involved from this point on.

- 5) The Proprietors Trust recognises that supposed or actual instances of theft or fraud can affect the rights and reputation of the person or persons implicated. All matters related to the case shall remain strictly confidential with all written information kept secure. Should any delegated staff member or any other staff member improperly disclose information the Management Team shall consider if that person or persons are in breach of confidence and if further action is required. Any action the Management Team considers must be in terms of the applicable conditions contained in their contract of employment and any code of ethics or code of responsibility by which the staff member is bound.
- 6) The Proprietors Trust affirms that any allegation of theft or fraud must be subject to due process, equity and fairness. Should a case be deemed to be answerable then the due process of the law shall apply to the person or persons implicated.
- 7) Any intimation or written statement made on behalf of the Trust and related to any instance of supposed or actual theft or fraud shall be made by the Proprietors Trust Chairperson who shall do so after consultation with the Management Team and if considered appropriate after taking expert advice.

Allegations Concerning the Management Team or a Trustee

- 8) Any allegation concerning a member of Management Team should be made to the Proprietors Trust Chairperson. The Chairperson will then investigate in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 4 of this Policy.
- 9) Any allegation concerning a member of the Proprietors Trust of Trustees should be made to the Management Team. The Management Team will then advise the manager of the local office of the Ministry of Education and commence an investigation in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 4 of this Policy.

Approval

- 10) When the Proprietors Trust approved the Policy it was agreed that no variations of this Policy or amendments to it can be made except by the unanimous approval of the Proprietors Trust.
- 11) As part of its approval the Proprietors Trust requires the Management Team to circulate this Policy to all staff, and for a copy to be filed with the other Trust policies and procedures which are available to all staff. These are also available to students and parents at their request. The Proprietors Trust requires that the Management Team arrange for all new staff to be made familiar with this Policy and other policies approved by the Proprietors Trust.

Signed: _____

Name

Dated: ____/____/____

Review Date: ____/____/____