

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

We recognize the need to safeguard the children in our care, as well as those who take part in teaching them. We aim to create a safe environment for the education and development of our students, in order that they may feel valued. Our students are our priority and as such we have a clear responsibility to do whatever we can to ensure their safety and well-being. It is therefore our intention to create policies and procedures that uphold methods of safe practice and which safeguards all those involved.

INTRODUCTION

Each day, as many as 150 individuals with criminal records apply for positions with nonprofit organizations, many of whom are registered sex offenders. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that, on average, a serial child sex offender will commit 150 acts of molestation against a child prior to being caught. This data was captured as part of a survey completed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation among incarcerated child molesters. We understand that organizations serving children are most susceptible to being targeted by those who prey on children.

The Hockessin Montessori School has a zero-tolerance policy for incidents of child abuse. We understand that protecting children is our most important responsibility, and that our programs serve no positive purpose if we do not ensure the safety of the children in our care. In EVERY case, the report of molestation and abuse, or suspected molestation or abuse, will be treated with absolute priority, and The Hockessin Montessori School will do everything in its power to ensure the successful prosecution of the perpetrator.

This policy provides guidelines and establishes procedures for employees, Board Members, volunteers, consultants, or anyone conducting or involved (defined as "Individuals") in youth programming on behalf of The Hockessin Montessori School. Note that such "Individuals" do not include outside vendors, contractors, or service providers, unless they are directly involved with The Hockessin Montessori School's youth programming or are providing services while youth are present.