

## **Policy and Procedures on the Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse**

- **Stratford College has adopted the Department of Education *Guidelines for the Protection of Children: Post-Primary*. A copy of this is available on the Downloads section of the school website.**
  - ⇒ **In the case of reasonable grounds for concern for the welfare of a student i.e. a specific indication from a child that s/he was abused; a statement from a person who witnessed abuse; an illness, injury or behaviour consistent with abuse; a symptom which is supported by supporting evidence of deliberate harm or negligence; consistent signs of neglect, a written report should be made to the Principal or in his/her absence, the Deputy Principal.**
  - ⇒ **The Principal should notify the School Manager about the concerns expressed.**
  - ⇒ **Following investigation and with reference to *The Guidelines* above the Principal may forward a report to the Child Care Manager of the relevant Health Board.**