

# Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

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## **Purpose of this Statement of Commitment to Child Safety**

Everyone in society has a moral responsibility to keep children safe and to protect them from harm. This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety helps raise awareness about the importance of child safety at Woodville Primary School and the community and affirms Woodville Primary School's commitment to child safety and expectations.

## **Statement of Commitment to Child Safety**

- *Woodville Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.*
- *Woodville Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.*
- *Woodville Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.*
- *Every person involved in Woodville Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.*

## **Woodville Primary School's principles for child safety**

In its planning, decision-making and operations Woodville Primary School will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

## **Related School Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Safety Policy
- Bullying prevention Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Digital Technologies & Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy
- Supervision and Duty of Care Policy
- Volunteer Policy
- Working With Children Check Policy

## Links and references

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- [Ministerial Order No. 870](#)
- [Child Safe Standards – DET](#)

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- [Child Protection – Reporting obligations](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Responding to student sexual offending](#)
- [Risk management](#)
- [Protection and support](#)

## Department resources:

- [A step-by-step guide to making a report to Child Protection or Child FIRST \(PDF - 270Kb\)](#)
- [Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people](#)
- [Protecting Children - Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations - elearning module log-in](#)

## Other resources:

[Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum:](#)

- [Recognise, React, Report](#) – activities for students
- Government schools see: FUSE (Edumail password is required before searching *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*)
- Parents, see: Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum Parent Guides - Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment.

Department of Health and Human Services:

- [Child Protection](#)
- [Child FIRST](#)
- [Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams \(SOCIT\)](#)

Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority

- [Standards and supporting resources](#)

[Commission for Children and Young People](#)

## Related Legislation

- [Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment \(Child Safe Standards\) Bill 2015](#)
- [Children, Youth and Families Act 2005](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#)
- [Victorian Institute of Teaching Act 2001](#)

## Evaluation

The Woodville Primary School Council and staff will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and revise the statement tri-annually or as required by completing a review.

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

These procedures will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle

*These procedures were last reviewed in **November 2018***