



Whorouly Primary School

CHILD SAFE STANDARD 7

Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

PURPOSE

Organisations must have strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

INTENT

What is the intent of this standard?

Organisations must ensure that children feel safe to report abuse and have processes in place to ensure that students are empowered to raise any child safety concerns. Organisations must support students to develop appropriate knowledge and skills so that children can identify and communicate when they don't feel safe.

Description

Whorouly Primary School ensures children feel safe and comfortable in reporting concerns or allegations of abuse. Whorouly Primary School has simple and accessible processes that help children understand what to do if they want to report abuse, inappropriate behaviour or concerns for their safety.

All staff have an awareness of children's rights and adults' responsibilities regarding child abuse.

How Whorouly Primary School promotes participation and empowerment of children:

- We provide the following programs and units of work to give students knowledge, strategies and skills to understand behaviour expectations, to voice their opinions and concerns, develop resilience and to participate in respectful relationships including understanding the diversity of our community which may include aboriginal children, families from other cultures and those with a disability:
 - Health and Safety unit at the start of the school year
 - Indigenous Studies Unit of Work
 - Respectful Relationships Program
 - You Can Do It Education
 - Catching On Early
 - Cyber Safety lessons including Alannah and Madeline Foundation Digital Licence
 - Bully Stoppers
 - Gratitude and Mindfulness activities
- Our chaplain provides the opportunity for students to voice opinions and concerns in whole class, small group and individual activities and meetings.
- We provide leadership opportunities for our students to support others, with senior students allocated a Foundation buddy each year and leading Bluearth classes at the Whorouly Pre School.
- We encourage participation and empowerment of children in other activities such as leading assemblies, attending Student Leadership Conferences and nominating for bus captains.
- We ensure information and processes for reporting concerns are accessible to all children.
- We provide children with child-appropriate and accessible information about what child abuse is, their right to make decisions about their body and their privacy, that no one has a right to injure them, and how they can raise concerns about abuse.
- All staff are made aware of all policies that are in place in the school to protect and support our students.



Whorouly Primary School

By successfully implementing these strategies Whorouly Primary School ensures:

- reporting procedures for when a child feels unsafe are accessible for all children
- children understand what child abuse is, and their rights (age appropriate)
- children understand how to report an allegation of abuse or concern for their safety to the organisation, a trusted adult and external bodies (for example, the police)
- children feel safe, empowered and taken seriously if they raise concerns
- children feel empowered to contribute to the organisation's understanding and treatment of child safety
- children's reports of concern are responded to appropriately
- staff understand how to empower children and encourage their participation.

RELATED POLICIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other policies and procedures of Whorouly Primary School concerned with Child Safety and Wellbeing:

- Whorouly Primary School Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy and Procedures
- Whorouly Primary School Child Safe Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Code of Conduct
- Whorouly Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Duty of Care Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Bullying Prevention Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Digital Technologies Policy

This policy was ratified by School Council in October 2020.

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