

WHOROULY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Child Protection – Child Safe Policy

Rationale:

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the whole school community of Whorouly Primary School, leaders, staff, volunteers, students, their families, to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and procedures developed to keep everyone safe from harm, including all forms of abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety:

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Children’s Rights to Safety and Participation:

The staff and volunteers of Whorouly Primary School encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity and Inclusion:

We value and celebrate diversity, including cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) and their families
- promote the personal safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability and make them feel welcome and part of all aspects of school life

Recruiting Staff and Volunteers:

Whorouly Primary School will apply the most thorough and rigorous standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all staff and volunteers and require police checks and Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for all staff and volunteers. Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements will be included in all advertisements for staff and volunteer positions.

Supporting Staff and Volunteers:

Whorouly Primary School provides support and supervision to all staff and volunteers so people feel valued, respected, affirmed in their work and fairly treated.

The Principal has been appointed as the Child Safety Officer with specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or students in relation to Child Safety.

Risk Management:

Risk management is an approach that minimises the potential for child abuse or harm to occur. Our Emergency Management Plan outlines and details all aspects of risk across our whole school environment (on site and off site school activities) with specific activity risk assessments. In addition to our general Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse and harm to our students.

Related Documentation:


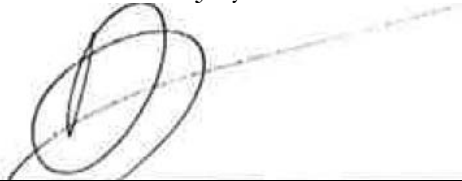
This policy should be read in conjunction with the other policies and procedures of Whorouly Primary School concerned with Child Safety and Pastoral Wellbeing:

- Whorouly Primary School WWCC Register Procedures
- Whorouly Primary School WWCC List
- Whorouly Primary School Duty of Care Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Excursions Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Incursions Policy
- Whorouly Primary School On Site Supervision Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Privacy Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Staff Registers Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Student Engagement and Well Being Policy
- Whorouly Primary School Visitors in School Policy
- VIT Legal Obligations of a Teacher
- VIT Teacher Code of Conduct
- Child Protection and Safety Policy
- Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Child Protection – Working With Children Checks Policy
- Child Protection – Failure to Disclose Policy
- Child Protection – Failure to Protect Policy
- Child Protection – Grooming Policy

References:

- Crimes Amendment (Protection of Children) Act 2014, online, http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/num_act/caoca201436o2014417
- Children, Youth and Families Act (Vic) 2005
- Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Sexual Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations, Final Report, *Betrayal of Trust*, November 2013.

Date Implemented	July 2016
Author	Fran Waterman – July 2016

	
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	Andrea Skahill – July 2016 
Date Reviewed	To be reviewed no later than July 2019
Responsible for Review	Principal
Review Date	
References	