



## CHILD SAFE STANDARD 3

Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

### Overview

This standard supports schools to create a culture that values and promotes student participation. This includes:

- informing students about their rights and responsibilities in an age-appropriate way
- recognising the importance of friendships and peer support
- enabling students to actively participate in creating a culture that is safe for them and their peers.

### Actions schools must take

To comply with this standard, at minimum, schools must:

- inform students about all their rights, including their rights to safety, information and participation
- recognise the importance of friendships and encourage support from peers, to help students feel safe and be less isolated
- make sure staff and volunteers:
  - are attuned to [signs of harm](#)
  - facilitate child-friendly ways for students to express their views, participate in decision-making and raise their concerns
- to develop a culture that encourages participation and responds to what students say
- give students opportunities to participate, and respond to their contributions to strengthen confidence and engagement
- offer students access to sexual abuse prevention programs and related information in an age-appropriate way.
- develop curriculum planning documents or other documentation that details how the school will address these requirements.

### How to implement Child Safe Standard 3

- Empower students to contribute to school life
- Empower students to raise their concerns
- Strengthen peer support for safety and wellbeing
- Establish protective factors
- Communicate in a respectful and age-appropriate way
- Use sensitivity and build trust
- Inform students of their rights

### Related documents and Policies:

- [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#)
- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Complaints Policy](#)
- [Child Safety Action List](#)