



# Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

## 1. Rationale

St Kilda Park 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.

St Kilda Park Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

St Kilda Park 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 St Kilda Park 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.

Ministerial Order No. 870 sets out specific actions that registered schools need to take to meet the Child Safe Standards.

This policy applies across all school environments including school camps, the use of digital technology and social media, and outside of school hours.

## 2. Implementation

- i. In its planning, decision-making and operations St Kilda Park Primary School will
- ii. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
- iii. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
- iv. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
- v. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
- vi. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
- vii. Engage suitably qualified people to work with children and have high quality staff, volunteer supervision and professional development;
- viii. 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;
- ix. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities as per DET Mandatory Reporting Policy and the school's procedures ;
- x. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
- xi. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.
  
- xii. The school applies best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people. We will ensure that staff induction, education and training programs are a vital part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect. Working with Children Checks will be required according to the school's WWC Policy.
  
- xiii. The school has clear expectations for staff and volunteers in making a report about a child or young person who may be in need of protection. Immediate action should include reporting their concerns to



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DHHS Child Protection or another appropriate agency and notifying the principal or a member of the school leadership team of their concerns and the reasons for those concerns. (*Refer to the DETs Mandatory Reporting Policy and school's procedures*)

- xiv. Considerable importance is placed on safeguarding the confidentiality and privacy of information about particular children and their families. Processes for the collection, use and storage of information is included in school policies. (*Refer to the DETs Privacy Policy*)

### 3. Evaluation

To ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year policy evaluation process.

Initially, this policy was reviewed within the first year of its implementation to ensure that it complies with the requirements of Ministerial Order No. 870.

*This policy was ratified by School Council in May 2017  
All policies are available at <http://www.skipps.vic.edu.au/about/policies.html>*

#### References:

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes/Pages/documents/Min%20Order%20870%20Child%20Safe%20Standards.pdf>