



**CHILD SAFETY POLICY**  
Daylesford Primary School  
Drummond Primary School  
Yandoit Primary School



**Purpose:**

*This document is in response to Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards – Managing the risk of child abuse in schools (18/12/2015)*

Daylesford Primary School and Annexes are committed to a child safe environment where we empower students, staff, school community, volunteers and contractors and service providers to inclusively protect and respect the wellbeing of every child in our care.

**Aim:**

We have zero tolerance of child abuse. All allegations and safety concerns are treated very seriously. This policy and associated procedures embed a culture in our schools of risk management and *no tolerance* for child abuse.

**If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.**

**Implementation:**

***Our children***

This policy is intended to empower children who are vital and active participants in our organisation. We involve them when making decisions, especially about matters that directly affect them. We listen to their views and respect what they have to say.

We promote diversity and acceptance in our organisation, and people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds are welcome. In particular we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ensure that children with a disability are safe and can participate equally.

***Our personnel***

This policy guides our staff, volunteers and service providers on how to behave with children in our organisation.

All personnel must agree to abide by our code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct required when working with children.

Training and education is important to ensure that everyone in our organisation understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

Our organisational culture aims for all members of the school community to feel confident and comfortable in discussing any allegations of child abuse or child safety concerns. We train our teaching staff to identify and assess any risk to child safety and to recognise potential signs of child abuse in accordance with DET Mandatory Reporting Guidelines.



We also support our staff through ongoing supervision to: develop their skills to protect children from abuse; and promote the cultural safety of children from linguistically and/or diverse backgrounds, and the safety of children with a disability.

Service providers will be supervised to ensure they understand our organisation's commitment to child safety and that everyone has a role to play in protecting children. All inappropriate behaviour will be reported by the Principal or delegate in accordance with DET Mandatory Reporting Guidelines.

The selection process clearly demonstrates our commitment to child safety and an awareness of our social and legislative responsibilities.

All personnel are required to hold a relevant Working with Children Check and to provide evidence of this Check.

Verification through background checks will be conducted when necessary.

### **Documented procedures for ensuring child safety**

- School Community Code of Conduct – outlines expectations for all members of the school community
- Child Abuse Incident Report Form – to be utilised by staff in the case of suspected child abuse
- Strategies to Embed a Culture of Child Safety – outline/action plan of all actions taken by DPS and Annexes to ensure a Child Safe environment

### **Supporting Documentation:**

Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority – Child Safe Standards

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/default.html>

DET Mandatory Reporting Guidelines:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/childprotection.aspx>

Merit Protection Board:

<http://www.mpb.vic.gov.au/>

Department of Health and Human Services – Child Protection:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/children,-families-and-young-people/child-protection>

Daylesford Primary School and Annexes Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

**Ratified: May 2019**

**Evaluation: Annually**