

# Anglesea Primary School Child Safe Standards

## PURPOSE

To support schools to create a child safe organisation and protect students from all forms of abuse.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to school staff, and all parents and carers in our community.

## POLICY

The Child Safe Standards (the Standards) are compulsory minimum standards for all organisations that provide services to children including Victorian schools. The aim of the Standards is to ensure organisations are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect. It is recognised that Anglesea Primary School has existing policies and procedures that aim to keep children safe.

The Standards provide a framework to identify gaps and improve policy and practices around child safety.

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) as regulator for all Victorian schools has responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Child Safe Standards in schools. The Standards are:

- Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
- Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
- Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

The Standards apply to all organisations that provide services to children and is followed at Anglesea Primary School. Ministerial Order 870 - Child Safe Standards - Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools provides guidance on how the Standards apply to a school setting. To implement the minimum Standards in accordance with the Order school governing authorities must:

- take account of the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable; and
- make reasonable efforts to accommodate such diversity.

Anglesea Primary School will demonstrate the Standards with the following;

- Child protection is a shared responsibility between the Anglesea Primary School, all employees, workers, contractors, associates, and members of the Anglesea Primary School community.
- Staff will be informed as to their responsibilities and procedures relating to child safety.

- Staff must read and become familiar with the Anglesea Primary School Implementation Guide relating to this policy as well as the Anglesea Primary School Child Protection Code of Conduct.
- Anglesea Primary School supports and respects all children, staff and volunteers.
- Anglesea Primary School is committed to promoting and protecting, at all times, the best interests of children involved in its programs.
- All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.
- Anglesea Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.
- Everyone working at Anglesea Primary School is responsible for the care and protection of the children within their care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.
- Anglesea Primary School is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.
- If any person believes a child is in immediate risk of abuse, telephone 000.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's website, which includes the new Identifying and Responding to All Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools guidance - [PROTECT](#)
- [Ministerial Order 870](#)

#### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in November, 2020 and is scheduled for review in September, 2023.