

PROTECT

Protecting children & young people
from abuse is our responsibility



Quarry Hill Primary School is a Child Safe School. We have a firm commitment to uphold the Child Safe Standards and to embed a culture of child safety. Strategies that seek to prevent harm and neglect (including physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, racial and cultural or religious abuse) all contribute to a child safe culture. It is therefore critical that child safety is part of the everyday thinking and practice of all within the school community.

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children enrolled at our school is our highest priority. Families put their trust in the staff, volunteers and external providers to keep their children safe as they learn and play. We know students learn best when they feel they are in a safe and supportive environment.

Our child safety and wellbeing policies outline the measures and strategies we have in place to support, promote and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Meeting the Standards is about considering the needs of all children, particularly those who may be vulnerable due to age, family circumstances, abilities, or indigenous, cultural or linguistic backgrounds. All members of our community share the responsibility for keeping our students safe so if you have concerns for a child's safety you must take action.

As valuable partners in promoting and maintaining child safety and wellbeing at Quarry Hill Primary School, we welcome and encourage your feedback.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions in relation to our child safe policies and practices, please contact the Assistant Principal, Anne Rochford via email

Anne.Rochford@education.vic.gov.au

Child Safe Standard 1: Establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

Overview

This is a new standard that requires schools to make sure Aboriginal children and young people feel safe. This guidance applies to all schools, even if there are no students who have identified themselves as Aboriginal.

The term 'Aboriginal' includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families and community refer to themselves, and use appropriate language.

Cultural safety includes being provided with a safe, nurturing and positive environment where Aboriginal children:

- feel comfortable being themselves
- feel comfortable expressing their culture, including their spiritual and belief systems
- are supported by carers who respect their Aboriginality and encourage their sense of self and identity.

Policies

[Child Safe Policy](#)

[Statement of Values and School Philosophy](#)

[Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)

[Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy](#)

[Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

[Cultural Safety of Aboriginal Children](#) (Tip Sheet)

[Community Understanding and Training](#) (undertaken by staff)

Child Safe Standard 2: Ensure that child safety and wellbeing are embedded in school leadership, governance, and culture.

Overview

This standard emphasises the vital role that school leaders and governing authorities have in establishing:

- a culture where child abuse and harm is not tolerated
- effective systems and processes to implement child safe policies and practices and manage child abuse risks.

Schools must take deliberate steps to promote child safety and wellbeing and protect children by

- embedding and promoting a child safety culture at all levels of the organisation
- school leaders actively modelling such a culture
- ensuring transparent governance arrangements.

School policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Child Safety Code Of Conduct](#)
- [Volunteers Policy](#)

Department policies and resources

- [Guidance for child safety champions](#)

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.

School policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Complaints Policy](#)
- [Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)

Department policies and resources

- [Guidance for child safety champions](#)
- [Empowerment and Participation of children](#)
- [eSmart and Cybersafety](#)

Child Safe Standard 4: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Overview

This standard highlights the importance of an open and transparent child safe culture for families and communities.

Schools must provide families and communities with accessible information about their child safe policies and practices and involve them in their approach to child safety and wellbeing.

School policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)

Department policies and resources

- [How to keep children safe](#)

Child Safe Standard 5: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.

This standard focuses on creating environments where all children and young people feel welcome.

Equity is a state of fairness in which all children and young people can participate freely and equally in areas of life, regardless of their background, characteristics, or beliefs. This means their safety is not dependent on their socio-economic, family, or personal circumstances.

As part of this standard, schools must:

- recognise and respond to students' diverse circumstances
- understand that some students are at higher risk of harm than others
- provide easy access to information
- adjust procedures to respond to different needs
- make sure complaints processes are child-friendly, culturally safe and easy to understand.

Policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy](#)
- [Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds](#) (Tip sheet)
- [Safety of children with a disability](#) (Tip sheet)

Child Safe Standard 6: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

Overview

This standard focuses on ensuring that people who work with children and young people are suitable and supported to act in a child safe way. Schools should make child safety and wellbeing a key consideration when recruiting staff and volunteers.

As part of this standard, schools must:

- develop robust procedures to ensure only suitable people work with children
- supervise staff and volunteers to ensure they prioritise the safety of children
- support staff and volunteers to understand their responsibilities.

Policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Volunteers Policy](#)
- [Visitors Policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Working with children Checks and other Suitability Checks for School Volunteers and Visitors](#)

Child Safe Standard 7: Ensure that processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.

Overview

This standard focuses on ensuring that schools have complaints processes that are child-focused, culturally safe and accessible to everyone.

Schools must have policies, procedures and practices to

- have a complaints handling process focused on students and their safety needs
- take complaints and concerns seriously
- respond promptly and thoroughly
- identify and respond to all forms of child abuse
- report child abuse to relevant authorities, whether or not there is a legal obligation to report it.

Policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)

- [Complaints Policy](#)
- [Mandatory Reporting Policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Protect: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)

Child Safe Standard 8: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

Overview

This standard focuses on building child safety knowledge, skills and awareness in staff, volunteers and school governing authorities.

All schools should deliver training to new and existing staff and volunteers. The training must be tailored to the needs of the school and the role the person performs at the school.

Policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Child Safety Code Of Conduct](#)
- [Volunteers Policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Guidance for child safety champions](#)

Child Safe Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

Overview

This standard focuses on child safety and wellbeing in physical and online environments and ensuring that procurement also reflects child safety.

Schools need to have policies and strategies:

- for identifying and responding to risk and reducing or removing the risk of harm
- for online conduct and online safety
- ensuring that procurement policies for facilities and services ensure the safety of children and students

Schools must analyse and understand potential risks to students. It is important to think about risks created by school structure and culture, activities and physical and online environments.

Online technologies are constantly changing which presents significant challenges for schools, parents and carers. Online behaviour needs to be addressed in the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Codes of Conduct to promote child safety.

Arrangements with external agencies also create child safety risks. They create opportunities for unknown people to have contact with students.

Policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Child Safety Code Of Conduct](#)
- [Volunteers Policy](#)
- [Yard duty and supervision policy](#)
- [Digital Technologies Policy](#)
- [Camps and Excursions Policy](#)
- [Duty of Care policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Acceptable Use Agreement](#)

Child Safe Standard 10: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

Overview

This standard focuses on continuous improvement in child-safe policies, procedures and practices.

Schools must:

- regularly review and evaluate policies and strategies
- analyse child safety incident data
- share review findings with the school community.

Policies

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Volunteers Policy](#)

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Guidance for child safety champions](#)

Child Safe Standard 11: Policies and procedures that document how schools are safe for children, young people and students.

Overview

This standard focuses on incorporating the 11 Child Safe Standards into school policies, procedures and practices, which work together to create a child-safe culture.

Schools should ensure these policies and procedures are:

- informed by community consultations so they are relevant to the school
- accessible to all
- informed by best practice

- championed by leaders
- well understood by those they apply to
- implemented effectively.

Department of Education Resources, programs and initiatives

- [Guidance for child safety champions](#)