

Child Safety Policy



RATIONALE

Kingswood Primary creates a positive difference for each student by providing an engaging, innovative and caring learning environment. Kingswood is safe, friendly and organised.

All Victorian schools are required to have a child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety that details:

- the principles that will guide the school in developing policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe school environment; and
- the actions the school proposes to take to:
 - i. demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school's adherence to its child safety policy;
 - ii. support, encourage and enable school staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters; and
 - iii. support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.

AIMS

To promote child safety in the school environment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse

Forming a belief on reasonable grounds

A person may form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection after becoming aware that a child or young person's health, safety or wellbeing is at risk.

Reporting a belief

Mandated staff members (Teachers and Principals) must make a report to Child Protection as soon as practicable after forming a belief on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is in need of protection.

Staff members, **whether or not mandated**, need to report to the principal or assistant principal their belief when the belief is formed in the course of undertaking their professional duties. A report must be made as soon as practicable after forming the belief and on each occasion on which they become aware of any further reasonable grounds for the belief.

If one staff member has a different view from another staff member about making a report and the staff member continues to hold the belief that a child is in need of protection, that person is obliged to make a report.

These procedures do not:

- prohibit or discourage school staff from reporting an allegation of child abuse to a person external to the school;
- state or imply that it is the victim's responsibility to inform the police or other authorities of the allegation;
- require staff to make a judgment about the truth of the allegation of child abuse; or
- prohibit staff from making records in relation to an allegation or disclosure of child abuse.

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Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

- Risk management strategies have been developed within the following school policies:

Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures Policy 2014

Student Engagement Policy 2014

Duty of Care Policy 2014

- If the school identifies risks of child abuse occurring in one or more school environments the authority must make a record of those risks and specify the action(s) the school will take to reduce or remove the risks (risk controls).

Explanatory note: Different risk controls may be necessary for particular groups of children depending on the nature of the risk and the diversity characteristics of children affected by the risk.

- As part of its risk management strategy and practices, the school must monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of its risk controls.
- At least annually, the school must ensure that appropriate guidance and training is provided to the individual members of the school staff about:
 - individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for managing the risk of child abuse;
 - child abuse risks in the school environment; and
 - the school's current child safety standards.

Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation

- The school authority must develop strategies to deliver appropriate education about:
 - standards of behaviour for students attending the school;
 - healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality);
 - resilience; and
 - child abuse awareness and prevention.
- The school must promote the child safety standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.

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REFERENCES

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

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Review

Version	Edited By / Comments	Next Review
August 2016	Student Wellbeing Sub committee	2019