



Commitment to Child Safety Statement

Last ratified by School Council: 5th September, 2016

Purpose of this Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Everyone in society has a moral responsibility to keep children safe and to protect them from harm. This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety helps raise awareness about the importance of child safety at Darraweit Guim Primary School and the community and affirms Darraweit Primary School's commitment to child safety and expectations.

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

- Darraweit Guim 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.
- Darraweit Guim Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.
- Darraweit Guim 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 Darraweit Guim 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.

Darraweit Guim Primary School's principles for child safety

In its planning, decision-making and operations the School will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. 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;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

Related School Policies

This policy should be read and understood (but not limited to) in conjunction with the following school policies:

- ANTI Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy (Including Cyber Bullying)
- Cyber Safety Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Duty Of Care Policy
- Internet Usage Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Onsite Supervision Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Statement of Commitment to child Safety
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

Links and references

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Child Safe Standards – Managing the *Risk of Child Abuse* in Schools
- Ministerial Order No. 870
- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - Duty of care
 - Child Protection Reporting Obligations
 - Responding to Student Sexual Assault
 - Risk Management
 - Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people

External Resources:

- Department resources:
 - A step-by-step guide to making a report to Child Protection or Child FIRST (PDF - 270Kb)
 - Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
 - Protecting Children - Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations - elearning module log-in
- Other resources:
 - Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum:
Government schools see: FUSE (Edumail password is required before searching *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*)
Parents, see: Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum Parent Guides - Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment.
- Department of Health and Human Services:
 - Child Protection
 - Child FIRST
- Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT)
- Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (2016) Information Sheet. CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2: A child safety policy or a statement of commitment to child safety
- Commission for Children and Young People (2015) A Guide For Creating A Child Safe Organisation, Version 2-0.
- State of Victoria (2010) Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people: A joint protocol of the Department of Human Services Child Protection, Department of Education and Training, Licensed Children's Services and Victorian Schools.

Related Legislation

- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015*
- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*
- *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*
- *Victorian Institute of Teaching Act 2001*

Review

The Darraweit Guim Primary School Council and staff will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and revise the statement tri-annually or as required by completing a review. Statement of Commitment to Child Safety updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors. This statement was ratified by School Council at the School Council Meeting held