



Child Safe Standards – School Evidence and Actions

Child Safe Standards

Principle of inclusion

ACTIONS

✓ The **school** takes account of and makes reasonable efforts to accommodate the diversity of all children in implementing the Child Safe Standards

Examples of how to demonstrate 'reasonable efforts' may include:

- Significant cultural events such as NAIDOC week are noted and/or celebrated
- Training for school staff on supporting diverse families
- Child safety information sessions to students and families from diverse backgrounds
- School leadership takes account of diversity when making decisions regarding the Child Safe Standards

✓ The **Child Safety Policy** refers to the diversity of all children, and specifically mentions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Page 4, [School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers](#)

MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS

- Respectful Relationships program embedded across school
- Deaf Facility on site (32 students integrated into classrooms)
- Events such as Harmony week noted and celebrated (16/3/2020 – 23/3/2020)
- National Reconciliation Week celebrated in classes in 2019.
- Deaf Facility Parent Information Session (held 14/11/2019).
- Annual Visiting Teacher Service Professional Learning about teaching hearing impaired students 19/3/2020 (attended by 8 RGLPS staff in 2020).
- PD for all RGLPS staff from ATSI (24/5/20219)
- Year 3/4 and 5/6 Integrated units in 2019 focused on Aboriginal Culture



Child Safe Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety

ACTIONS	FURTHER GUIDANCE	MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS
<p>✓ The school develops, and the Principal approves strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety</p> <p>✓ The school (and school council where relevant) implements the strategies and informs the school community of them</p> <p>✓ The school's strategies are included in its Child Safety Policy.</p> <p>Examples of strategies may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child safety is a regular agenda item at staff meetings and/or school council meetings ○ Child safety is discussed in class, year level assemblies, or in school newsletters ○ Staff have been allocated specific child safety-related roles and responsibilities ○ The school has an action plan to address any identified gaps or areas for improvement. 	<p>FURTHER GUIDANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to embed a culture of child safety • PROTECT poster • Page 6, School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers 	<p>MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly updated Child Safe display in staffroom • Student Welfare and Child Safe issues on the agenda at all Team Planning and Area Meetings. • Child Safety issues discussed in school newsletters. • All classes hold weekly meetings to discuss issues including those around Child Safety and Student Wellbeing. • Principal acts as Child Safety Officer, responsible for communication/implementation of policies.

Child Safe Standard 2: A child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety

ACTIONS	FURTHER GUIDANCE	MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS
<p>✓ The school develops, and the Principal approves the Child Safety Policy.</p> <p>✓ The Child Safety Policy is made publicly available</p> <p>Examples of how to make the Policy publicly available may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ publishing on the school's website ○ school newsletters ○ public display on school grounds. 	<p>FURTHER GUIDANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a child safety policy and Preparing a child safety policy • Page 7, School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers 	<p>MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safe Policy in place and published on school website. • Child Safe Noticeboard located in staffroom.



Child Safe Standard 3: A child safety code of conduct

ACTIONS

- ✓ The **school** develops, and the **Principal** approves a [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- ✓ The **school council** approves the Code of Conduct (to the extent it applies to school council employees and members, unless delegated to the Principal)
- ✓ The **Code of Conduct** is made publicly available
 - Examples of how to make the Code publicly available may include:**
 - publishing on the school’s website
 - school newsletters
 - public display on school grounds.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- [Developing a Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- Page 9, [School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers](#)

MY SCHOOL’S ACTIONS

- Child Safe Policy in place and published on school website.
- Child Safe Noticeboard located in staffroom.

Child Safe Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse

ACTIONS

- ✓ The **Principal** ensures the school follows the [Recruitment in Schools Guide](#) to ensure the school’s hiring practices are child safe
- ✓ **School councils** (for school council employees, unless delegated to the Principal) ensure that selection, supervision and management practices are child safe, including:
 - Ensure that jobs involving child-connected work have a statement setting out the job’s requirements and duties regarding child safety
 - Inform applicants for jobs involving child-connected work about the school’s child safety practices (including the Code of Conduct)
 - Complete suitability checks for the preferred candidate
 - Ensure that appropriate supervision and support arrangements are in place
- ✓ The **school** follows their [Volunteers policy](#)
- ✓ The [Child Safety Policy](#) refers to the school’s recruitment, supervision and management practices in place to protect children.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- [HR Practices for a child safe environment](#)

MY SCHOOL’S ACTIONS

- All visitors, volunteers, contractors undergo induction which includes an overview of Child Safety practices, behaviours and expectations.
- All Casual Relief Teachers, Visitors, volunteers, Pre Service Teachers, Allied Health Professionals etc must show a valid Working with Children check at the office when arriving on site.
- Police Checks and/or Working with Children Checks must be sighted and copies made prior to the commencement of work for new members of staff.



Child Safe Standard 5: Procedures for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

ACTIONS

✓ The **school** develops, and the **Principal** approves a [Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations \(including Mandatory Reporting\) policy and procedures](#)
 ✓ The [Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations \(including Mandatory Reporting\) policy and procedures](#) are made publicly available and accessible

Examples of how to make the policy publicly available may include:

- publishing on the school’s website
- school newsletters
- public display of the [Four Critical Actions](#) on school grounds.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- [Identifying and Responding to All Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools \[accessible\]](#)
- Page 9, [School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers](#)

MY SCHOOL’S ACTIONS

- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations (including Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures) in place
 - published on school website
 - Copy on Child Safe Noticeboard in Staffroom



Child Safe Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

ACTIONS

✓ The **school** develops, implements, records, and monitors risk management strategies, for example by using a [Child Safety Risk Assessment Register](#), approved by the **Principal**

Examples of monitoring the effectiveness of the risk management strategies may include:

- The **Principal or another staff member** reviews the Child Safety Risk Assessment Register (or other document) annually to make sure it is effective, up to date and reflects any changes in the school’s environment (e.g. a particular reporting process has changed, a new campus has opened, the Principal has been notified of a risk related to a school council activity, etc.)

At least annually, the school council undertakes appropriate [guidance and training about child safety](#)

At least annually, the Principal ensures appropriate guidance and training about child safety is provided to school staff

Examples of this training may include:

- Staff complete the online module [Protecting Children: Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations](#)
- Staff watch the Commission for Children and Young People’s video on [Creating a Child Safe Organisation](#)
- Staff review of [Identifying and Responding to All Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools](#) [[accessible](#)]
- Other appropriate child safety guidance and training, undertaken annually.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- [Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse](#)
- Page 10, [School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers](#)

MY SCHOOL’S ACTIONS

- Annual Mandatory Reporting Overview for staff (Start back Day 2020)
- All staff complete annual online Mandatory Reporting module – monitored by Child Safe Officer (Principal).
- Mandatory Reporting information in Staff Handbook.



Child Safe Standard 7: Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

ACTIONS	FURTHER GUIDANCE	MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS
<p>✓ The school develops, and the Principal approves, strategies to deliver appropriate education about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standards of behaviour for students attending the school ○ Healthy and respectful relationships ○ Resilience; and ○ Child abuse awareness and prevention. <p>□ The school promotes the Child Safe Standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children</p> <p>Examples of promoting the Child Safe Standards may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PROTECT poster is displayed in the school ○ All Child Safe Standards documents are publicly available ○ Children have access to some child safety materials designed for them (e.g. worksheets, posters) ○ Students make and display their own child safety posters ○ Child safety-related discussions are held at circle time in class. 	<p>FURTHER GUIDANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guide to support Victorian Schools to meet Child Safe Standard 7 [accessible] • Page 12, School Review: Information Resources for Schools, Regions and Reviewers 	<p>MY SCHOOL'S ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of new school values heavily embedded into 2020 Start Up programs. • Student created posters around appropriate learning behaviours related to new school values (and SWPBS) displayed in all classrooms. • Weekly Respectful Relationships lessons in all classrooms. • PROTECT Poster on Display in Staffroom and Teacher Planning room. • Weekly Class meetings in all classrooms to enable discussions around student wellbeing and Child Safe issues to be raised.