

Child Safety - Governance and Effective Leadership

Standard 1



Clarinda Primary School is committed to child safety.

The child safe standards require schools to have strategies to embed a school culture of child safety, including effective leadership arrangements. Protecting children from abuse is everybody's business, and a school's leadership is essential to instilling a child safety culture.

Leadership in a child safe environment

Working with children can be very rewarding, and it brings additional responsibilities. We must act to protect children from abuse and build an environment where children feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. This requires a culture of child safety to be embedded throughout Clarinda Primary School so that child safety is part of everyone's everyday thinking and practice. Such a culture is achieved through proactive leadership in demonstrating the appropriate values, attitudes and behaviours of an organisation. A child safe environment is the product of a range of strategies and initiatives. Clarinda Primary School fosters a culture of openness, inclusiveness and awareness. Children and adults know what to do if they observe or are subject to abuse or inappropriate behaviour. All staff and volunteers consider the safety of all children, and recognise the importance of cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and the safety of children with a disability.

Governance in a child safe environment

Leadership takes preventative, proactive and participatory approaches to child safety issues. The safety and wellbeing of children at Clarinda Primary School is paramount and given consideration when developing activities, policies and management practices.

Leadership responsibilities

Leadership is responsible for embedding a culture of child safety at Clarinda Primary School. Leadership takes the lead in protecting children from abuse, and is made aware of child abuse allegations and risks and takes responsibility for ensuring an appropriate response. Clarinda Primary School ensures that all allegations of child abuse and child safety concerns are treated very seriously. This includes complying with all legal requirements, including reporting suspicions of child abuse to police and/or child protection.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

¹ For definitions of key terms, please see *An Overview of the Victorian child safe standards*:

Identify and analyse risk of abuse

Clarinda Primary School adopts an approach to prevent, detect and respond to child abuse risks. This includes a risk management strategy and policy that sets out how we identify, assess, and the steps taken to reduce or remove child abuse risks.

Develop a child safe policy

Clarinda Primary School has developed a child safe policy which outlines our commitment to promoting children's wellbeing and protecting children from abuse.

Develop codes of conduct

Clarinda Primary School has a code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct and care required when working and interacting with children. We also refer to professional codes of conduct where appropriate i.e. DET and VIT documents.

Choose suitable employees and volunteers

Clarinda Primary School takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. This includes police record and identity checks, Working with Children Checks where required, face-to-face interviews and detailed reference checks from previous employers.

Support, train, supervise and enhance performance

Clarinda Primary School ensures that volunteers and employees who work with children have ongoing supervision, support and training so that their performance is developed and enhanced to help protect children from abuse. The Principal and Assistant Principal are persons in our school who have knowledge of child safety issues, and could be a point of contact for others who have questions or concerns or want to report an allegation of abuse.

Promote inclusion

Clarinda Primary School is inclusive to all children and families. We have a culture that supports:

- cultural safety for Aboriginal children, for example by working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal community controlled organisations
- cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, for example by using inclusive language and images in policy documents, and communications such as the website and newsletters
- the safety of children with a disability, for example by ensuring your organisation is accessible to everyone and ensuring appropriate training and supervision of staff and volunteers working with children with a disability.
- Single and same sex families.

Empower and promote the participation of children in decision-making

Clarinda Primary School promotes the involvement and participation of children in developing and maintaining child safe environments. For example, we provide opportunities for children to express their views on our child safe policy and code of conduct, and then incorporate this feedback to improve our policies and practices. Ideas from children are sought through suggestions from the Junior School Council, or feedback sessions.

We listen to children and take them seriously, particularly if they are disclosing abuse or concerns for their safety or the safety of other children.

Links which are connected with this policy are:

Commitment to child safety policy (Child safe standard 2).docx

Child safe code of conduct (Child safe standard 3).docx

Human resources practices (Child safe standard 4).docx

Mandatory reporting practices (Child safe standard 5).docx

Mandatory Reporting Incident Report sheet (Child safe standard 5).docx

Identifying and reducing the risk of child abuse (Child safe standard 6).docx

Promoting student voice (Child safe standard 7).docx

Further information

Further information on child safe standards can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/plans,-programs-and-projects/projects-and-initiatives/children,-youth-andfamily-services/creating-child-safe-organisations

Additional resources for organisations in the child safe standards toolkit can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies,-guidelines-andlegislation/child-safe-standards

In particular, An Overview to the Victorian child safe standards, has information to help organisations understand the requirements of each of the child safe standards, including examples of measures organisations can put in place, a self-audit tool and a glossary of key terms:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/data/assets/word_doc/0005/955598/Child-safe-standards_overview.doc

Registered schools can contact the Department of Education and Training:

child.safe.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au