

CHILD SAFETY

Purpose

To ensure the welfare and safety of all students, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability, in all school environments and outside of school hours.

Aims

- To empower all students to speak up if they are at risk
- To identify risks early, and work to reduce and remove risks
- To commit to zero tolerance of child abuse in our community
- To observe our legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are concerned for a student's safety
- For all staff to participate in regular training and education about child abuse risks.

Child abuse includes:

- Any act committed against a child involving
 - A sexual offence
 - An offence under section 49B(2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming)
- The infliction, on a child, of
 - Physical violence
 - Serious emotional or psychological harm
- Serious neglect of a child

Implementation

The Child Safety policy should be read in conjunction with the following Mont Albert Primary School policy statements:

- e-smart policy
- Mandatory Reporting policy
- Parental Participation in School Curriculum Programs policy
- Privacy policy
- School Visitors policy
- Supervision of Students policy
- Working with Children Check policy

Staff and volunteers

- All staff and School Council members at Mont Albert Primary School must agree to abide by our code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct required when working with children. They will leave a signature to confirm that they have been provided with a copy of the code of conduct.
- Volunteers will be required to meet guidelines under the school's Working with Children Check policy.
- All volunteers working in classrooms will be within the line of sight of DET employees.

Training and supervision

- All staff, as part of their mandatory reporting legal obligations, will be trained annually to identify, assess and minimise risks of child abuse, and to detect potential signs of child abuse by participating in the Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations eLearning Module.

- New employees will take part in activities, as part of the induction process, to ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities pertaining to child safety.
- All personnel working in and around our school are either registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and therefore have current police checks, or hold a valid Working with Children Check and will provide evidence of this. Copies will be stored in the Business Manager's office.
- All visitors to the school must sign in, upon arrival, and sign out, upon departure, using the kiosk outside the main office. They must wear their visitor's badge to identify them as a visitor.

Legislative responsibilities

- All adults working at Mont Albert Primary School have a responsibility to report any allegations of abuse if they have a *reasonable belief* that an incident has occurred to one of our students.
Factors contributing to a reasonable belief may include:
 - A child states they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
 - Behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed
 - Someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it
 - Observing suspicious behaviour.

Reporting

- If a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred is formed, the staff member involved will alert the Principal and/or Assistant Principals. A report will be completed by the staff member who holds the reasonable belief using the Incident Reporting Form on Compass. Either the staff member, Principal or Assistant Principal will contact Child Protection or Child First to make a report.

Evaluation

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

October 2016