

CHILD SAFE STRATEGIES

Toolangi 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.

Toolangi Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Toolangi 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 Toolangi 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.

The school will implement the following child safe strategies:

School Governing Authority (Principal in conjunction with School Council) will

- Communicate that it has zero tolerance of child abuse
- Participate in the development and enhancement of child safety strategies through ongoing reviews.
- Ensure that an appropriate reporting process is in place for child abuse.
- Oversee the implementation and improvement of child safety strategies.
- Communicate with the school community about the school's child safety strategies.
- Report on child safety in the school annual report.
- Check for child safety requirements with all pre-employment reference checks.
- Confirm currency of criminal history checks, Working with Children Check/Victorian Institute of Teaching registration

School Staff will:

- Be aware of the school child safety strategies and allocated roles and responsibilities.
- Be inducted in child safety.
- Ensure child safety is a standing item for discussion at staff meetings.
- Be trained to detect inappropriate behaviour.
- Be encouraged to report inappropriate behaviour.
- Foster a culture of openness.

Children will

- Be made aware and encouraged to report inappropriate or unsafe behaviour.
- Be reassured that the school has child safety reporting procedures
- Be able to access counselling and other resources when needed.

Environment

The school has child safety strategies in place for all physical school environments that include:

- Regularly reviewing the environment to ensure all risks are identified and managed
- Assessing new or changed physical environments for child safety risks
- Supervising or monitoring activities

The school has child safety strategies for its online environment including:

- Clear boundaries of on-line role differences between staff and children
- Strategies in place to detect inappropriate behaviour such as online searches (Google, Facebook, etc.)

This policy will be revised during the life of the Schools Strategic Plan; 2013- 2017