

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

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 Toolangi Primary School and the community and affirms Toolangi Primary School's commitment to child safety expectations.

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

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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.

When referring to child abuse the school's policies reflect all forms of child abuse including physical abuse, sexual abuse, grooming, emotional abuse, neglect and family violence.

All child safe procedures are applicable to allegations of disclosures of child abuse made by or in relation to a child, school staff, visitors or other persons connected to the school's environment.

Principles for Child Safety

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.

As the leaders of child safety, the Toolangi Primary School staff support all members of our community in understanding their role and responsibility as individuals and as a collective to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

The Principal is the nominated Child Safety Leader (CSL)

The CSL will:

- Lead the development of the school's child safety culture, including being a child safety champion and providing coordination in communicating, implementing, monitoring, enhancing and reporting on strategies to embed a culture of child safety.
- Ensure the school's policies are known and used appropriately.
- Ensure the school's child safety policy is reviewed in the context of school self-evaluation undertaken as part of the school accountability framework.
- Ensure the Child Safe Policies are available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this.
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any measures to protect them.
- Have a working knowledge of how the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Community Service Organisations conduct a child protection case conference to be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child safety policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff.
- Make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest DHHS and DET policies and guidance.
- Promptly manage the school's response to an allegation or disclosure of child abuse and monitors the overall compliance with this response.
- Allocate the responsibilities and manage an alternative procedure if the person allocated responsibility is unavailable.

Student involvement

Staff are familiar with the Feeling Safe fact sheet (primary students) and address these issues during timetabled welfare discussion.

Students in both classrooms are made aware of who to talk to if they feel unsafe or have a concern. This is reviewed with them each year.

To ensure privacy and confidentiality all record keeping and documentation relating to Child Safe issues are stored securely in the Principals Office.

Related School Policies

To ensure that everyone is well informed about all relevant information please read the following policies:

- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Child Safe Policy
- Child Safe Strategies
- Duty of Care Policy
- Embedding a Culture of Child Safety
- Engagement and Inclusion Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Working With Children Policy

Links and References

- Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools [Ministerial Order No. 870](#)
- [Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young children](#)

This statement will be revised during the life of the School Strategic Plan; 2013 - 2017