

## EMBEDDING A CULTURE OF CHILD SAFETY POLICY

### RATIONALE

An organisational culture of child safety is critical to reducing the risk of child abuse in schools. Organisational culture is defined as a set of values, expectations and standards that influence the behaviour of the members of the organisation. The organisational culture defines what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour by people within the organisation.

To successfully embed a culture of child safety, a commitment to **zero tolerance of child abuse** must be led by the school governing authority, School Council.

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.

### AIMS

- The school aims to share the commitment of a culture of child safety to all members of the school community, staff, children and volunteers.
- School strategies take into account the diversity of the children attending the school e.g. children with a disability or those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Strategies are preventative, proactive and promote a shared responsibility to develop an open and aware culture of Child Safety.

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Include in the school Strategic Plan under Environmental Context a statement of philosophy that addresses child safety and child abuse.
- All policies and procedures in relation to the organisational culture of child safety are reviewed at School Council on an ongoing basis.
- The Child Safe and related policies are always available for community viewing.

- Students are encouraged to openly discuss any concerns related to child safety.
- All school staff and volunteers will be instructed in the school's child safety strategies.
- The school's expectation with respect to child safety will be published and displayed in a prominent location in the school environments (e.g. school buildings, website.)
- The school community will be informed about Child Safety strategies implemented through school council meetings, staff meetings, newsletters, and displays within the school environment.

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