

Embedding a Child Safe Environment

STANDARD ONE

CRESWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale/Overview

Leadership must take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety issues. The safety and wellbeing of children at Creswick Primary School is a paramount consideration when developing activities, policies and management practices.

'Ministerial Order 870 identifies five elements that schools have to satisfy to meet the requirements of Child Safe Standard One. They are: developing strategies, allocating roles and responsibilities, informing the school community, putting the strategies into practice, and periodic review.'

Implementation

#Strategies to embed Child Safe Practices at Creswick Primary School

- Leadership
 - Is responsible for embedding a culture of child safety at Creswick Primary School.
 - Will take the lead in developing, implement and embedding the seven Child Safe Standards in the school. The Standards are:
 - Embed an organisational culture of child safety
 - Implementing a child safe policy
 - Develop a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
 - Ensure the screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
 - Clarify processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
 - Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
 - Promote the participation and empowerment of children.
- All allegations of child abuse and child safety concerns will be treated very seriously. This includes complying with all legal requirements, including reporting suspicions of child abuse to police and/or child protection.
- The school will implement an on-going approach to prevent, detect and respond to child abuse risks. This includes a risk management strategy and policy that sets out how Creswick Primary School identifies, assess, and takes steps to reduce or remove child abuse risks.
- A child safe policy that outlines the school's commitment to promoting children's wellbeing and protecting children from abuse is in place
- The school has in place a code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct and care required when working and interacting with children. The Student Code of Conduct will also highlight and encourage appropriate behaviour between children and further standards for visitors, volunteers, parents and staff.
- All reasonable steps to ensure that the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children are employed or allowed to act as volunteers in the school will be taken. This could include Working with Children Checks, face-to-face interviews and detailed reference checks from previous employers, including from the applicant's most recent line manager.
- All volunteers and employees who work with children will have ongoing supervision, support and training so that their performance is developed and enhanced to help protect children from abuse.
- Recognising and promoting inclusion
- Student voice as part of decision making will be fostered eg: Junior School Council, Student Leaders, Code of Conduct etc
- **If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.**

Policy Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years and/or following significant incidents if they occur.

For further information on child safe standards go to childsafestandards@dhhs.vic.gov.au