



**ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2 – CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY AND
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**
Approved 25th March 2019

PURPOSE OF CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2

This child safe environments policy and statement of commitment sets out Ascot Vale PS's approach to creating a child safe organisation where children and young people are safe and feel safe; and provides the policy framework for the school's approach to the Child Safe Standards.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour - Child Safety Code of Conduct, Mandatory Reporting Policy and Visitors to School Policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and contractors, whether or not they work in direct contact with children or young people, across a range of school forums (e.g. camps, online) and outside of school hours. This policy also applies to partner organisations engaged in child related work on our school site via hire agreements, for example: Camp Australia; Dance Theatre; Kelly Sports and Soccer Time Kids.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Ascot Vale Primary School is committed to child safety, preventing child abuse, identifying risks early, removing, and reducing these risks; this is the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Children from Ascot Vale Primary School are encouraged to become vital and active participants in our school. Training, induction and education is important to ensure that everyone at Ascot Vale Primary School understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility. The school has specific, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff, contractors and volunteers to achieve these commitments. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities and rigorously follow processes when we are concerned about a child's safety.

In addition, Ascot Vale Primary School:

- has zero tolerance of child abuse
- actively works to listen to and empower children
- has systems to protect children from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently in line with the school's policies and procedures
- 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.
- recognises every person involved in the 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 commitments outlined above apply at all times, encompassing all school environments and outside of school hours.

PRINCIPLES

In its planning, decision-making and operations Ascot Vale PS will:

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;
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.
11. Uphold principles of confidentiality and privacy

REVIEW

Child Safe Standard 2 is scheduled for review in 2 years or as required by the VRQA.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS / LINKS

- Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority
Child safe standards website (all schools): www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafestandards
- Government Schools Child Protection in Schools Website:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/childprotection/Pages/default.aspx>
- Developing a child safety policy:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/childprotection/Pages/csstwo.aspx>
- Email: child.safe.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au
- The Victorian Institute of Teaching
For *Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct and Ethics* and information about employer responsibilities to report action taken against registered teachers in response to allegations and concerns about registered teachers.
Website: www.vit.edu.au