



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
No.2608

## ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2 – CHILD SAFE POLICY AND STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Developed July-November 2016

Passed by School Council 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### INTENT OF CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2

Child Safe Standard 2 requires schools to develop and publicly communicate a Statement of Commitment to child safety or a school child safe policy. Ascot Vale Primary School's policies and procedures provide the foundation for and commitment to child safety in the organisation.

### Statement of Commitment

Ascot Vale Primary School, at all times, encompassing all school environments and outside of school hours:

- 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 promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- is committed to providing a safe environment for children with a disability and/or vulnerable children, enabling these children to participate equally

### Rationale

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

### Principles for Child Safety

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

- Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
- Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
- Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
- Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
- Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
- 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;
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Mandatory Reporting Policy and Visitors to School Policy.

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

#### **Review**

This statement 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/childsafe](http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe)
- Government Schools  
Website: [www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/chilsafestandards](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/chilsafestandards)  
Email: [child.safe.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](http://www.vit.edu.au)