



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
No.2608

ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD SAFE STANDARD 6 - STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY AND REDUCE OR REMOVE RISKS OF CHILD ABUSE

22 February 2021

INTRODUCTION

Child Safe Standard 6, requires schools to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate risk management strategies to ensure child safety in school environments.

A child safety risk management strategy is a formal and structured approach to managing risks associated with child safety.

PREPARING FOR COMPLIANCE

Ascot Vale Primary School (AVPS) will:

- assess, identify and document the school's risks in relation to child safety, and plan and document risk management strategies where necessary
- incorporate risk management actions and responsibilities in the Action Plan as described in Standard 1
- identify the actions the school proposes to take, per Standard 1, to ensure a monitoring and review process to ensure the currency of the risk management approach

BACKGROUND

The Child Safe Standards apply to all organisations involved in child-related work in Victoria. Ministerial Order No. 870 provides the framework for how schools are required to comply with the Standards.

Overall responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

The Ministerial Order specifies the following requirements for schools regarding Standard 6:

- “The school governing authority must develop and implement risk management strategies regarding child safety in school environments.
- The school’s risk management strategies regarding child safety must identify and mitigate the risk(s) of child abuse in school environments by taking into account the nature of each school environment, the activities expected to be conducted in that environment (including the provision of services by contractors or outside organisations), and the characteristics and needs of all children expected to be present in that environment.
- If the school governing authority identifies risks of child abuse occurring in one or more school environments the authority must make a record of those risks and specify the action(s) the school will take to reduce or remove the risks (risk controls). Explanatory note: Different risk controls may be necessary for particular groups of children depending on the nature of the risk and the diversity characteristics of children affected by the risk.
- As part of its risk management strategy and practices, the school governing authority must monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of its risk controls.
- At least annually, the school governing authority must ensure that appropriate guidance and training is provided to the individual members of the school governing authority and school staff about:

- individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for managing the risk of child abuse
- child abuse risks in the school environment
- the school's current child safety standards.”

PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING AND REDUCING OR REMOVING RISKS OF CHILD ABUSE

Managing risk at Ascot Vale PS will typically involve the following steps and considerations:

1. Identify the school's child safety risks across the range of school environments (including excursions, camps, online).
2. Identify any existing risk mitigation measures or existing controls
3. Assess and rate the school's child safety risks given the existing controls in place, taking into account the likelihood of risk, and the likely consequence of the risk
4. If the risk rating is more than the 'acceptable level', identify further risk management strategies through additional treatments or other prevention, detection or mitigation strategies and then re-assess the risk (once in place these treatments will then become controls).

The risk management process should be documented, recorded and reviewed periodically. Effective risk management strategies are dynamic and change over time as new risks arise and others may no longer be relevant.

Effective risk management strategies need to be transparent, well understood and diverse, to take account of the increased level of risk associated with the specific nature of some activities and the vulnerability of particular groups.

REVIEW

Child Safe Standard 6 is scheduled for review in 2 years or as required by the VRQA.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

- Commission for Children and Young People: [Being a Child Safe Organisation](#)
- [Risk Management in Schools](#)
- To download the Department of Health and Human Service's Child safe standards toolkit, see: [Child Safe Standards Resources](#)
- e-learning module: [Protecting Children - Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations](#)
- [Victoria Government Gazette - Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority: Resources](#)
- Last Update: 11 June 2019