

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Kilberry Valley Primary School aims to create a school climate that will be tolerant, safe, supportive and friendly and will foster positive self-esteem and hence motivate learning. The school believes that every child has the right to feel safe and supported in a friendly, caring and positive school environment where the rights and responsibilities of students will be respected.

2. POLICY PURPOSE

To promote child safety within the school environment and to ensure that our students are protected from abuse and neglect.

3. GUIDELINES

The implementation of this policy does not replace any legislative or regulatory obligations or other professional or occupational codes of conduct that regulate staff at the school. The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) *Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct and Ethics* provides clarity regarding professional behaviour expected of teachers at all times. The code specifies behaviour unacceptable for a professional relationship between a teacher and a student. The VIT code provides a useful guide to appropriate behaviour for all school staff.

Kilberry Valley PS recognises the importance of the partnership between the school and parents in supporting student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The following principles will guide all adult's behaviour when undertaking child-connected work at Kilberry Valley PS. These include:

- 4.1 zero tolerance of child abuse. Child abuse includes physical violence, sexual offences, serious emotional or psychological abuse and serious neglect
- 4.2 all people engaged or recruited for child-related work, including volunteers, are required to hold a current Working with Children Check and/or VIT teacher registration to provide evidence for the school records
- 4.3 all staff will perform their mandated duties in regards to the reporting of any concerns regarding child abuse
- 4.4 any allegations of abuse and/or safety concerns and any subsequent school investigations will be documented and securely stored
- 4.5 ensure appropriate supervision of all classes, excursions, camps and school environment that aligns with DET policies and procedures
- 4.6 commitment to cultural safety for all students, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- 4.7 provide a safe environment for children with a disability by making appropriate accommodations – educational, social and physical
- 4.8 implementation of Child Safety programs such as Bully Stoppers
- 4.9 the adult/child relationship should be professional at all times
- 4.10 an adult's response to a child's behaviour or circumstance should be commensurate with the child's age and vulnerability and the adult's responsibility for the care, safety and welfare of the child
- 4.11 an adult should not be alone with a child unless there is line of sight to other adults
- 4.12 an adult should not initiate or seek physical contact or contact with children outside school.

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Acceptable Behaviours

All staff, parents and volunteers are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- 4.13 adhering to the school's Child Safety policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- 4.14 taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- 4.15 treating everyone in the school community with respect
- 4.16 listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- 4.17 promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment for all students no matter their nationality
- 4.18 promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination);
- 4.19 promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- 4.20 ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- 4.21 reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership team (Principal, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers)
- 4.22 understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958*
- 4.23 reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership (Principal, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers)
- 4.24 if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- 4.25 Reporting to the Victorian Institute of Teaching any charges, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher

Unacceptable Behaviours

Staff, parents and volunteers must not:

- 4.26 ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- 4.27 develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- 4.28 exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- 4.29 put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- 4.30 initiate unnecessary physical contact which children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes

5. EVALUATION

The Child Safety Policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required.

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