



## CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

Belmore School prides itself on being a child safe environment. Our school actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm within our school environment, in accordance with their legal obligations including child safe standards. Belmore School has Child Safe and Child Safe Code of Conduct policies in place to guide our practice in ensuring the safety of all students. Where required, current Department information is referenced in the application of the Child Safe Standards.

Belmore School implements the Child Safe Standards through the following processes:

**1. Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety**

This is addressed through the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy and school values delineated using the acronym C.A.R.E. - Community, Achievement, Resilience, Empathy. The distributed leadership model, Principal, Assistant Principal (Engagement and Wellbeing), Leading Teachers and SMT leaders share responsibility in leading the school community in our commitment to child safety.

**2. A child safety policy or a statement of commitment to child safety**

This is addressed through the Child Safe Policy, Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy, Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting Policy and the KPS Child Safe Standards Implementation Summary.

**3. A child safety code of conduct**

This is addressed through the Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy. KPS staff are educated on the code of conduct through the induction process. Members of the school community, volunteers, visitors and contractors are provided with the KPS Child Safe Standards Implementation Summary and directed to the school website for additional information.

**4. Screening, supervision, training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse**

This is addressed through implementation of Department Recruitment in Schools policies and guidelines and Probation Guidelines, comprehensive staff induction, register of VIT registration and WWWC documentation and ongoing professional learning in maintaining a child-safe environment.

**5. Procedures for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse**

This is addressed through the Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting Policy, following the guidance of the document Identifying and Responding to all Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools and implementation of the Department's Four Critical Actions when responding to an incident, disclosure or suspicion of child abuse – 1. Responding to an emergency; 2. Reporting to Authorities; 3. Contacting parents/carers; 4. Providing on-going support.

**6. Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse**

This is addressed through staff knowledge of the document Spotting the Warning Signs of Child Abuse: For School Staff, implementation of the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy, Working with Children Policy, Visitors Policy and completion of risk assessments as per requirements. All parents and volunteers working with children must hold a current Working with Children Check and undertake a comprehensive orientation program.



## 7. Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

This is addressed through implementation of the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy, student participation in personal and social capabilities programs and implementation of the PYP transdisciplinary framework, which focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both at school and beyond.

Belmore School policies, procedures and support documentation are located on the staff T-drive in the Child Safe Standards Folder.

### References:

- Ministerial Order No. 870 <http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2016/GG2016S002.pdf>
- <https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafesafe/Pages/default.html>
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/childsafestandards.aspx>
- [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/Documents/Schools\\_recruitment.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/Documents/Schools_recruitment.pdf)
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/Documents/Probation-Guidelines-Teaching-Service.pdf>
- [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard5\\_SchoolsGuide.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard5_SchoolsGuide.pdf)
- [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/FourCriticalActions\\_ChildAbuse.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/FourCriticalActions_ChildAbuse.pdf)
- [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard5\\_WarningSignsSchoolStaff.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard5_WarningSignsSchoolStaff.pdf)

### Contacts:

- DHHS Child Protection – 24 hour service - **131 278**
- Victoria Police – **000**
- Department of Education and Training Security Services Unit - **(03) 9603 7999**

# PROTECT

**Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.**

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



**It's everyone's responsibility.**

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

**Further information & resources**

[www.education.vic.gov.au/protect](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/protect)