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CHILD SAFE AND WELLBEING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

At St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.

Our Mission is to provide a quality education in the Catholic tradition for the families in the local area.

2. PURPOSE

The St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy demonstrates our school's commitment to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation, where children and young people are safe and feel safe.

This Policy provides an overview of our school's approach to implementing *Ministerial Order No. 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises (Ministerial Order No. 1359)*, which sets out how the Victorian Child Safe Standards apply in school environments.

It informs our school community of everyone's obligations to act safely and appropriately towards children and guides our processes and practices for the safety and wellbeing of students across all areas of our work.

3. SCOPE

This Policy:

- applies to all school staff (including teachers, non-teachers, casual employees and pre-service teachers), volunteers and contractors whether or not they work in direct contact with students. It also applies to School Advisory Committee members where indicated;
- applies in all physical and online school environments used by students during or outside of school hours, including other locations provided for a student's use (for example, a school camp) and those provided through third-party providers;
- should be read together with our other child safety and wellbeing policies, procedures, and codes – refer to the related policies section below.

4. DEFINITIONS

The following terms in this Policy have [specific definitions](#) used in relation to the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order No. 1359:

- child
- child safety
- child abuse
- child-connected work
- child-related work
- school environment
- school staff
- school governing authority
- student
- volunteer.

5. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

St Thomas the Apostle PS, Cranbourne East is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views are respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our school environments.

We promote positive relationships between students and adults, including school staff, contractors, volunteers, parents, guardians and carers and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.

We take proactive steps to identify and manage any risk of harm to students in our school environment. When child safety concerns are raised or identified, we treat these seriously and respond promptly and thoroughly.

Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning and/or asexual (LGBTIQA+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated at our school, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

Child safety is a shared responsibility. Every person involved in our school has an important role in promoting child safety and wellbeing and promptly raising any issues or concerns about a child's safety.

We are committed to regularly reviewing our child safe practices, and seeking input from our students, families, school staff, and volunteers to inform our ongoing strategies.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

School Leadership Team

Our executive leadership team (The Principal, Deputy Principals, CIRE Leader, Professional Learning - Leadership Coach) is responsible for ensuring that a strong child safe culture is created and maintained, and that policies and practices are effectively developed and implemented in accordance with Ministerial Order No. 1359.

Principal will:

- ensure that effective child safety and wellbeing governance, policies, procedures, codes and practices are in place and followed
- model a child safe culture that facilitates the active participation of students, families and school staff in promoting and improving child safety, cultural safety and wellbeing
- enable inclusive practices where the diverse needs of all students are considered
- reinforce high standards of respectful behaviour between students and adults, and between students
- promote regular open discussion on child safety issues within the school community including at leadership team meetings, staff meetings and School Advisory Committee meetings
- ensure risk management strategies are documented and in place that focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks related to child safety and wellbeing in the school
- facilitate and maintain records of regular professional learning for school staff and volunteers (where appropriate) to build deeper understandings of child safety, cultural safety, student wellbeing and the prevention of, and responding to, abuse
- create an environment where child safety complaints and concerns are readily raised, and no one is discouraged from reporting an allegation of child abuse to relevant authorities.

School Staff, Contractors and Volunteers

All school staff, contractors and volunteers will:

- participate in child safety and wellbeing induction and training provided by the school or the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (**DOSCEL**), and always follow the school and DOSCEL's child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures
- act in accordance with our [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- identify and raise concerns about child safety issues in accordance with the [Four Critical Actions for Schools](#) and the following DOSCEL policies and procedures:
 - Protection of Children – Reporting Obligations Procedure
 - Protection of Children – Anti-Grooming Policy
 - Protection of Children – Failure to Disclose Policy
 - Protection of Children – Failure to Protect Policy
 - Mandatory Reporting Policy
 - Guide to Reporting Conduct under the Reportable Conduct Scheme
 - Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes Policy and Procedure

- ensure students' views are taken seriously and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives
- implement inclusive practices that respond to the diverse needs of students.

School Advisory Committee

In performing the roles and responsibilities in accordance with the DOSCEL School Advisory Committee Charter, School Advisory Committee members will:

- champion and promote a child safe culture with the broader school community
- ensure that child safety is a regular agenda item at School Advisory Committee meetings
- undertake annual training on child safety provided by the school
- provide feedback in relation to, and act in accordance with, the school Child Safety Code of Conduct to the extent that it applies to School Advisory Committee members
- when participating in the selection process of the school principal, ensure that selection, supervision, and management practices are child safe.

Specific School Staff Child Safety Responsibilities

St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East has nominated Child Safety Champions (***Peta Overbury*** and ***Jennifer Gulavin***) to support the principal to implement our child safety policies and practices, including school staff and volunteer training.

The responsibilities of the Child Safety Champions are outlined in the DOSCEL guidance for Child Safety Champions. In addition to these roles, the school Child Safety Champions are also responsible for:

- updating the Child Safe Risk Register
- Identifying Child Safety areas of focus for discussion in professional learning, meetings and with the student reference (voice) group

Our principal and Child Safety Champions are the first point of contact for child safety concerns or queries and for coordinating responses to child safety incidents.

- ***Peta Overbury*** and ***Jennifer Gulavin*** are responsible for monitoring the school's compliance with the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy. Anyone in our school community should approach either Deputy Principal or the Principal if they have any concerns about the school's compliance with the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.
- ***Peta Overbury*** and ***Jennifer Gulavin*** are responsible for informing the school community about this Policy, and making it publicly available.
- Other specific roles and responsibilities are named in other child safety policies and procedures, including but not limited to the Child Safety Code of Conduct, Protection of Children – Reporting Obligations Procedure, Mandatory Reporting Policy, and Child Safety Risk Register.

Our school has also established a Child Safety and Wellbeing Team and a [Student Reference Group](#) on child safety. The Child Safety and Wellbeing Team meets regularly to identify and respond to any ongoing matters related to child safety and wellbeing. The Student Reference Group provides an opportunity for students to provide input into school child safety strategies.

Our principal and Child Safety Champions monitor the Child Safety Risk Register at least once per semester. The risk register is a standing item in the [minutes](#) which are discussed twice weekly.

7. CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

The St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East Child Safety Code of Conduct sets the boundaries and expectations for appropriate behaviours between adults and students. It also clarifies behaviours that are not acceptable in our physical and online environments.

We ensure that students also know what is acceptable and what is not acceptable so that they can be clear and confident about what to expect from adults in the school.

The [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#) also includes processes to report inappropriate behaviour.

8. MANAGING RISKS TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

At our school we identify, assess and manage risks to child safety and wellbeing in our physical and online school environments. These risks are managed through our child safety and wellbeing policies, procedures and practices, and in our activity specific risk registers, such as those we develop for off-site activities, such as school camps and excursions, and facilities and services we contract through third party providers for student use.

Our Child Safety Risk Register is used to record any identified risks related to child abuse alongside actions in place to manage those risks. Our School Leadership Team will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions in the Child Safety Risk Register at least annually.

At our school, we explicitly teach our students how to raise concerns and report when they do not feel safe at school or online.

9. ESTABLISHING A CULTURALLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT

At St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East, we are committed to establishing an inclusive and culturally safe school environment where the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's histories, cultures, values and practices are respected and celebrated.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, we recognise that the link between the student's culture, identity and their cultural safety are critical to ensuring that they feel comfortable being themselves and expressing their spiritual and cultural beliefs.

The school creates opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, families and local Aboriginal communities to have a voice and presence in our school planning, policies, and activities.

We have developed the following strategies to promote cultural safety in our school community:

- Development and review of Learner Profiles for students identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Explicitly teach the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia, including the school's local Aboriginal history.
- Acknowledgement of the traditional owners is displayed in areas across the school

- Teachers identify and use resources, learning materials and opportunities which share indigenous perspectives
- Display and teach all students about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags
- Ensuring that culturally appropriate symbols and images are displayed in our school
- Engage staff in ongoing professional development about the history and culture of Indigenous People
- Consistent school response to racism which is clearly communicated with students, staff and parents
- Engagement in the Fire Carrier Program
- Celebration of significant dates e.g. National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week
- Engage with the DOSCEL Education Officer Inclusive Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) for advice and support in creating culturally inclusive learning environments

10. STUDENT VOICE AND EMPOWERMENT

To support child safety and wellbeing at St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East we work to create an inclusive and supportive environment that encourages students and families to contribute to our child safety approach and understand their rights and their responsibilities.

Strategies are in place to ensure that all student voices are listened to, including students who find it harder to speak up or be heard. We support our students to feel comfortable about speaking up and recognise that students communicate in different ways, including verbal and non-verbal cues, play, body language, facial expressions, drawings and/or behaviours.

All students at St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East are empowered to express their views, contribute to school life and are encouraged to [provide feedback on school wide decisions](#). We take into account student views when school decisions are made, including when developing and implementing policies and procedures.

Respectful relationships between students are reinforced and we encourage strong friendships and peer support in the school to ensure a sense of belonging through the explicit teaching of the Social Emotional Learning curriculum, implementing our Whole School Approach to Positive Behaviour Support (**WSAPBS**), our student Code of Conduct, our school values ([our school wide expectations](#)).

We inform students of their rights through

- student voice groups, which includes students from around the school
- [our Whole School Approach to Positive Behaviour Support \(WSAPBS\)](#)
- give them the skills and confidence to recognise unsafe situations with adults or other students and to speak up and act on concerns relating to themselves or their peers.

We ensure our students know who to talk to if they are worried or feeling unsafe and we encourage them to share concerns with a trusted adult at any time. Students and families can also access information on how to report concerns at school reception and then follow our [complaints and grievances procedures](#). When the school is gathering information in relation to a complaint about alleged misconduct or abuse of a child, we will listen to the complainant's account and take them seriously, check our

understanding of the complaint, support the student and keep them (and their parents, guardians, and carers, as appropriate) informed of progress.

11. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Our families and the school community have an important role in monitoring and promoting children's safety and wellbeing and helping children to raise any concerns.

To support family engagement, at St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East we are committed to providing families and community with accessible information about our school's child safe policies and practices and involving them in our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

We will create opportunities for families to have input into the development and review of our child safety policies and practices and encourage them to raise any concerns and ideas for improvement.

We do this by:

- seeking input from our families and the community through -the parent portal (PAM), our school newsletters, our school website, School Advisory Committee and our parent/student and staff support group meetings (PSGs).
- ensuring all of our child safety policies and procedures be available for students and parents, guardians and carers on our school website <https://www.cranbournееast.catholic.edu.au/> or via email at admin@cranbournееast.catholic.edu.au
- Weekly newsletters, Community Newsletter, Simon Everywhere, Assembly Video, SEESAW and our school email 'The Spear' will inform families and the school community about any significant updates to our child safety policies or processes, and strategies or initiatives that we are taking to ensure student safety.
- Informing families and the community about child safety policies and practices using simple language which can be easily translated
- PROTECT Child Safety posters will be displayed across the school in shared common areas , and in each community

12. DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

As a child safe organisation, we celebrate the rich diversity of our students, families and community and promote respectful environments that are free from discrimination. Our focus is on wellbeing and growth for all.

We recognise that every child has unique skills, strengths and experiences to draw on.

We pay particular attention to individuals and groups of children and young people in our community with additional and specific needs. This includes tailoring our child safety strategies and supports to the needs of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- children and young people with disability
- children unable to live at home or impacted by family violence
- international students

- children and young people who identify as LGBTIQ+.

We engage with multiple strategies and actions for diversity and equity as per the Ministerial Order No.1359, Clauses 9.2 and 9.3. Some of these include but are not limited to:

- The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) Approach
- The Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles
- The Whole School Approach to Positive Behaviour
- Kids Roar Program - Protective Behaviours
- Code of Conduct for Staff, Students and Parents
- IT User agreement
- Termly Parent Support Group meetings and as required
- Use images of students with diverse characteristics in school publications to reflect the school community.

13. SUITABLE SCHOOL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

At St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East we apply robust child safe recruitment, induction, training, and supervision practices to ensure that all school staff, contractors, and volunteers are suitable to work with children.

School staff recruitment

When recruiting school staff, we follow the DOSCEL Recruitment and Engagement Policy and associated guidelines.

When engaging school staff to perform child-related work, we:

- ensure Child Safety is a key focus in the selection and employment process
- sight, verify and record the person's Working with Children clearance (previously called a Working with Children Check or WWCC) evidence or equivalent background check such as a Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration
- collect and record:
 - proof of the person's identity and any professional or other qualifications
 - the person's history of working with children
 - references that address suitability for the position and working with children.

School staff induction

All newly appointed school staff will be expected to participate in our child safety and wellbeing induction program. The program will include a focus on:

- the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (this document)
- the Child Safety Code of Conduct
- the Protection of Children – Reporting Obligations Procedure
- the Protection of Children – Anti-Grooming Policy
- the Protection of Children – Failure to Disclose Policy
- the Protection of Children – Failure to Protect Policy
- the Mandatory Reporting Policy
- the Guide to Reporting Conduct under the Reportable Conduct Scheme

- the Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes Policy and Procedure
- any other child safety and wellbeing information that DOSCEL and/or school leadership considers appropriate to the nature of the role.

Ongoing supervision and management of school staff

All school staff engaged in child-connected work are supervised appropriately to ensure that their behaviour towards children is safe and appropriate. Where it is not practical or desirable for school staff such as teachers to be directly supervised in their classrooms, the school has strategies in place to provide support and supervision of these school staff.

School staff will be monitored and assessed to ensure their continued suitability for child-connected work. This will be done by:

- providing opportunities for students to give feedback both verbally and via survey platforms their experiences of school
- provide annual review meetings for teachers with members of leadership using the AITSL standards framework
- facilitated briefings both pre and post incursions and excursions
- ask referees about the person's character and experience in working directly with children and young people when completing reference checks
- Staff will regularly review policies and procedures around child safety and complete surveys to indicate understanding

Inappropriate behaviour towards children and young people will be managed promptly and in accordance with our school and DOSCEL policies and our legal obligations. Child safety and wellbeing will be paramount.

We have demonstrated our commitment to and management of processes in line with the Ministerial Order No. 1359, Clause 10 by and not limited to:

- Regular and ongoing contact with teaching agencies regarding the suitability of staff employed through them
- Ensuring the school's induction process is completed by staff before engaging with students (and repeated if required)
- Verify the identity and qualifications of staff on site
- Ongoing updates on the Child Safe Risk Register and actioned within the appropriate time frame
- Professional conversations facilitated by leadership with relevant staff

Suitability of volunteers

All volunteers are required to comply with the [DOSCEL Volunteers Policy](#), which describes how schools must assess the suitability of prospective volunteers and outlines expectations in relation to child safety and wellbeing induction and training, and supervision and management.

14. CHILD SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND AWARENESS

Ongoing training and education are essential to ensuring that school staff understand their roles and responsibilities and develop their capacity to effectively address child safety and wellbeing matters.

In addition to the child safety and wellbeing induction, our school staff will participate in a range of training and professional learning to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain a child safe environment.

School staff child safety and wellbeing training will be delivered at least annually and will include guidance on:

- Our school's child safety and wellbeing policies, procedures, codes, and practices
- Completing the [Protecting Children – Mandatory Reporting and Other Legal Obligations](#) online module annually
- Recognising indicators of child harm including harm caused by other children and students
- Responding effectively to issues of child safety and wellbeing and supporting colleagues who disclose harm
- How to build culturally safe environments for children and students
- Information sharing and recordkeeping obligations
- How to identify and mitigate child safety and wellbeing risks in the school environment
- Child Link roles and responsibilities to allocated executive leadership through online training

Other professional learning and training on child safety and wellbeing, for example, training for our volunteers, will be tailored to specific roles and responsibilities and any identified or emerging needs or issues.

These include but are not limited to:

- Nominating 2 Child Safety Champions and supporting them to facilitate the induction and training programs for staff and volunteers.
- Providing an induction for new staff, contractors, volunteers and new school advisory committee members on child safety, appropriate to the person's role that covers:
 - the school Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
 - the school Child Safety Code of Conduct
 - Responding and Reporting Obligations (incl. mandatory Reporting) policy and procedures

School Advisory Committee training and education

To ensure our School Advisory Committee is equipped with the knowledge required to support principals in making decisions in the best interests of student safety and wellbeing, and to identify and mitigate child safety and wellbeing risks in our school environment, the School Advisory Committee is trained at least annually. Training includes guidance on:

- Individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for implementing the Child Safe Standards and managing the risk of child abuse
- Child safety and wellbeing risks in our school environment
- St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East child safety and wellbeing policies, procedures, codes and practices.

15. COMPLAINTS AND REPORTING PROCESSES

St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East fosters a culture that encourages school staff, volunteers, students, parents, guardians, carers, and the school community to

raise concerns and complaints. This makes it more difficult for breaches of the code of conduct, misconduct or abuse to occur and remain hidden.

We have clear pathways for raising complaints and concerns and responding and this is documented in the DOSCEL Complaints and Grievances Management Policy and the school complaint-handling process. The [DOSCEL Complaints and Grievances Management Policy](#) and the school complaint-handling process can be found here: [Complaint Handling Procedure](#).

If there is an incident, disclosure, allegation or suspicion of child abuse, all school staff and volunteers (including School Advisory Committee members) must follow DOSCEL policies to address complaints and concerns of child abuse made by or in relation to a child or student, school staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers, visitors or any other person while connected to the school. DOSCEL policies to be followed by school staff are the:

- Protection of Children – Reporting Obligations Procedure
- Protection of Children – Anti-Grooming Policy
- Protection of Children – Failure to Disclose Policy
- Protection of Children – Failure to Protect Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Guide to Reporting Conduct under the Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes Policy and Procedure.

As soon as any immediate health and safety concerns are addressed, and relevant school staff have been informed, we will ensure our school follows:

- the [Four Critical Actions](#) for complaints and concerns relating to adult behaviour towards a child
- the [Four Critical Actions: Student Sexual Offending](#) for complaints and concerns relating to student sexual offending.

The DOSCEL [Anti-Bullying and Prevention Policy](#) covers complaints and concerns relating to student physical violence or other harmful behaviours.

16. COMMUNICATIONS

St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East Is committed to communicating our child safety strategies to the school community through:

- ensuring that key child safety and wellbeing policies are available on our website including the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (this document), Child Safety Code of Conduct, and the following DOSCEL policies:
 - Protection of Children – Reporting Obligations Procedure
 - Protection of Children – Anti-Grooming Policy
 - Protection of Children – Failure to Disclose Policy
 - Protection of Children – Failure to Protect Policy
 - Mandatory Reporting Policy
 - Guide to Reporting Conduct under the Reportable Conduct Scheme
 - Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes Policy and Procedure.
- displaying PROTECT posters in all common areas and in each community, displaying trusted adults nominated by each student in each community, displaying the commitment statement to child safety is displayed around the school and on the school website

- updates in our school newsletter, through PAM knowledge banks links, emails to families, Seesaw and the school website
- ensuring that child safety is a regular agenda item at school leadership meetings, staff meetings and School Advisory Committee meetings.

17. PRIVACY AND INFORMATION SHARING

St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East collects, uses, and discloses information about children and their families in accordance with Victorian privacy laws, and other relevant laws. For information on how our school collects, uses and discloses information refer to the [DOSCEL Privacy Policy](#).

18. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

We acknowledge that good records management practices are a critical element of child safety and wellbeing and manage our records in accordance with the DOSCEL [Records Management Policy](#) and DOSCEL Child Safe Standards – [Recordkeeping Policy](#).

19. REVIEW OF CHILD SAFETY PRACTICES

At St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East we have established processes for the review and ongoing improvement of our child safe policies, procedures, and practices.

We will:

- review and improve our policy every two years or after any significant child safety incident
- analyse any complaints, concerns, and safety incidents to improve policy and practice
- act with transparency and share pertinent learnings and review outcomes with school staff and our school community.

We do the following but not limited to the specific school processes for review and improvement in line with Ministerial Order 1358, Clause 13:

- update, monitor and manage child safety risks using the Child Safe risk register
- develop and maintain staff knowledge around policies and procedures in Child Safety
- dedicate professional learning meetings to procedures and processes such as responding to mandatory reporting
- use complaints and incidents as a learning opportunity to inform continuous improvement.

20. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy is to be read in conjunction with other related school policies, procedures, and codes. These include:

- [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- [Complaint-handling process](#)

Related DOSCEL policies, procedures and resources

- Protection of Children – Reporting Obligations Procedure
- Protection of Children – Anti-Grooming Policy
- Protection of Children – Failure to Disclose Policy
- Protection of Children – Failure to Protect Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Guide to Reporting Conduct under the Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes Policy and Procedure
- Digital Learning Policy (Internet, Social Media and Digital Devices)
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Complaints and Grievances Management Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Prevention Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Child Safe Standards – Recordkeeping Policy
- Off-Site Supervision of Students Policy
- On-Site Supervision of Students Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Whole School Approach to Positive Behaviour Support

Other related documents

- [Identifying and Responding to All Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools](#)
- [Four Critical Actions for Schools](#)
- [Identifying and Responding to Student Sexual Offending](#)
- [Four Critical Actions for Schools: Responding to Student Sexual Offending](#)
- [Recording your actions: Responding to suspected child abuse – A template for Victorian schools](#)
- [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#)
- Ministerial Order No. 1359, Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Facilities

21. AUTHORITY, MONITORING AND REPORTING

DOSCEL, a Company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth.), is the Governing Authority of primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Sale, excluding Catholic College Sale and Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon.

The Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL, is responsible for the management and general administration of DOSCEL schools. Based on the principle of subsidiarity and in keeping with the DOSCEL Delegation Register for Schools, a broad range of duties, functions, powers and authority are delegated to the Principal. This includes the effective implementation of this Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and the compliance obligations outlined in this policy.

However, the Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL, remains responsible for monitoring the development and implementation of this policy and for providing reports as required to the Directors of the DOSCEL Board.

The Principal is responsible for:

- ensuring compliance with the obligations outlined in this policy;
- assigning authority, responsibility and accountability at appropriate levels within the school for policy implementation and compliance;

- providing delegated school staff with the direction, support and resources necessary to fulfil policy requirements;
- ensuring cyclic reviews of the policy;
- reporting and escalating concerns, issues and policy breaches to the Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL, and working collaboratively with the Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL, to resolve them.

Whilst the Principal will play an important role in effective implementation of this policy and compliance with the Standards, it is noted that responsibility for compliance with the Standards ultimately remains with DOSCEL.

22. POLICY STATUS AND REVIEW

The Principal is responsible for reviewing and updating the school Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy at least every two years. The review will include input from students, parents, guardians, carers and the school community.

Approval

This Policy is endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL.

Implementation Date:	July 2024 (TBC)
Consultation:	School Advisory Committee Date - July 2024 Student Representative Group Date - Staff Consultation Dates - August 2024
Review Date:	July 2026 (every two years)

