

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

RATIONALE

Amsleigh Park Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Amsleigh Park Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse. This policy will apply to all members of the Amsleigh Park Primary School community and be inclusive of all school related activities, processes and procedures.

Amsleigh Park Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Amsleigh Park Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

GOALS

- ❖ To provide a safe and caring school environment that meet the needs of all children and addresses their safety and wellbeing as core business for all staff, parents and students.
- ❖ To protect Children from harm.
- ❖ To ensure that our school complies with all the requirements of the Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order 870 and apply these requirements to all staff, contractors, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work with students of Amsleigh Park Primary School
- ❖ To raise community awareness about the importance of child safety.

GUIDELINES

The Child Safety Policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policy statements:

- *Statement of School Philosophy*
- *Mandatory Reporting Policy*
- *Duty of Care (Student Supervision) Policy*
- *Child Safety Code of Conduct*
- *Student Engagement Policy*
- *Working with Children Check Policy*

The school's *Mandatory Reporting Policy* outlines our clear expectations for all staff and volunteers in making a report about a young person who might be in need of protection. All details regarding this process are found in this policy.

The schools approach to Child Safety risk management can be found in the *Duty of Care Policy*. Amsleigh Park Primary School is committed to undertaking proper risk management process.

In its planning, decision-making and operations *Amsleigh Park Primary School* will

- ❖ Appoint the Assistant Principal as the primary Child Safety Officer and ensure that the role statement for this position clearly outlines the requirements for undertaking this vital responsibility;
- ❖ Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility in meeting the requirements of this policy and other related policies and encourage any concerns to be raised, discussed and scrutinised, making it more difficult for abuse to occur or remain hidden;

- ❖ Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
- ❖ Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives through the Student Representative Council, classroom circle time, Tribes-Learning Communities and the application of the principles of student voice and choice in the classroom;
- ❖ 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 through the school's *Child Safety – Code of Conduct*;
- ❖ Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
- ❖ Include the Child Safe Standards in the school induction manual and processes;
- ❖ Ensure that all staff have the a valid National Criminal Records Check or Working with Children Check;
- ❖ Ensure all Volunteers meet the school's *Working with Children Check Policy*;
- ❖ 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;
- ❖ Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.
- ❖ Provide ongoing professional learning for staff
- ❖ The school will collect, use and disclose information about particular children and their families according to Victorian Privacy Laws;
- ❖ Facilitate opportunities for discussion in a range of forums across the school community including at; Staff meetings, Leadership Team meetings, School Council and the Parents and Friends Association.

Definitions related to Child Safety as outlined in Ministerial Order 870.

Child abuse includes—

- any act committed against a child involving:
 - a sexual offence or
 - an offence under section 49B(2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming)
- the infliction, on a child, of:
 - physical violence or
 - serious emotional or psychological harm
 - serious neglect of a child.

Child-connected work means work authorised by the school governing authority and performed by an adult in a school environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present.

Child safety encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of

child abuse.

School environment means any physical or virtual place made available or authorised by the school governing authority for use by a child during or outside school hours, including:

- a campus of the school
- online school environments (including email and intranet systems)
- other locations provided by the school for a child's use (including, without limitation, locations used for school camps, sporting events, excursions, competitions, and other events).

School staff being: an individual working in a school environment who is:

- directly engaged or employed by a school governing authority;
- a volunteer or a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary); or
- a minister of religion.

NB: It should be noted that fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of any procedures outlined in this policy do not displace or discharge any other obligations that arise if a person reasonably believes that a child is at risk of child abuse.

ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES

- ❖ Parent feedback as expressed through the Parent Opinion Survey
- ❖ Effective implementation of all policies that relate to Child Safety

STATUS:

Reviewed: July 2016

Ratified: August 2016

Next Review: August 2018

Date approved by School Council: Monday 15th August, 2016