



DON VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Old Don Road, Don Valley, 3139

Principal Lesley Gunther

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CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY July 2016

PURPOSE

The child safe environments policy: sets out the school's approach to creating a child safe organisation where children and young people are safe and feel safe; and provides the policy framework for the school's approach to the Child Safe Standards.

SCOPE

The policy will apply to all staff, volunteers, contractors and whether or not they work in direct contact with children or young people. It applies across a range of school forums (e.g. camps, online) and outside of school hours.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT AND PRINCIPLES

Don Valley Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The school's culture encourages staff to raise, discuss and scrutinise concerns making it more difficult for abuse to occur and remain hidden.

The school principal will ensure that each person understands their role, responsibilities and behaviour expected in protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect. Staff will comply with the school's Code of Conduct. The school's Code of Conduct sets out clear awareness of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour.

Human resources practices and training:

The school applies best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff, according to DET policy and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. We will ensure that staff induction, education and training programs are a vital part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect. All prospective staff and non-parent volunteers are required to undergo National Criminal History Records check or maintain a valid Working with Children Check."



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Reporting a child safety concern or complaint:

The school has clear expectations for staff and volunteers in making a report about a child or young person who may be in need of protection. Immediate action should include notifying the principal of their concerns and the reasons for those concerns and reporting their concerns to the DHHS Child Protection or another appropriate agency. The school will take action to respond to a complaint.

The school's policy and procedures for reporting a child safety concern or complaint can be found in the policies folder.

Risk reduction and management:

The School believes the wellbeing of children and young people is paramount, and is vigilant in ensuring proper risk management processes. The school recognises there are potential risks to children and young people and will take a risk management approach by undertaking preventative measures.

Listening to children:

The school has developed a safe, inclusive and supportive environment that involves and communicates with children, young people and their parents/care givers. We encourage child and parent/ care giver involvement and engagement that informs safe school operations and builds the capability of children and parents/care givers to understand their rights and their responsibilities."

"When the school is gathering information in relation to a complaint about alleged misconduct with, or abuse of, a child the school will listen to the complainant's account of things and take them seriously, check understanding and keep the child (or their parent/carer) informed about progress."

Confidentiality and Privacy:

This school collects, uses and discloses information about particular children and their families in accordance with Victorian privacy law. The principles regulating the collection, use and storage of information is included in the School Privacy Policy."

POLICY EVALUATION AND REVIEW

To ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed in the context of school self-evaluation undertaken as part of the school accountability framework.



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