



# **PROTECT: OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY**

Information for Parents and School Council members at Ripponlea Primary

# THE CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

- All Victorian early childhood services and schools must meet minimum standards to ensure they are equipped to protect children from abuse and neglect.
- The Child Safe Standards came into effect in 2016 and provide guidance and resources for schools to create and maintain a child safe organisation.
- The following slides outline how Ripponlea Primary School implements the seven Child Safe Standards in its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.



# CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

At RPS, our **Child Safety Officers** are the **Principal, Assistant Principal** and the **Student Engagement & Wellbeing Leader** who share the responsibilities to:

- provide authoritative advice to community members on child safety;
- coordinate strategies to embed a culture of child safety which is inclusive of being alert to children who have specific needs;
- raise awareness of policies and processes designed to inform all community members of actions to protect children from abuse and neglect;
- ensure explicit instruction on staying safe and seeking help is included in the curriculum;
- facilitate access to training and programs that assist our staff in championing child safety.

# **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 1:** **STRATEGIES TO EMBED AN ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE OF CHILD SAFETY**

- Our policies on Child Safety and Protection are included in staff induction, handbook and professional learning.
- Whole-staff briefings and team meetings include Child Safety and Wellbeing as a standing item.
- Posters and information on Child Safety are displayed in all areas of the school and included on the RPS website.
- PLC Leaders role includes focus on Child Safety and each PLC ensures Cyber Safety is prioritised in the delivery of ICT curriculum..
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing PLT review how Child Safety is embedded in both the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support and the teaching of Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships.



## **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2:** A CHILD SAFETY POLICY OR STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Ripponlea Primary has developed a **Child Safety Policy** which has been approved by the Principal and is publicly available on the school's website.

RPS also makes clear its commitment to child safety through its statement which is on display in our school and on our website.



## **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 3:** A CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

Ripponlea Primary has developed a **Child Safety Code of Conduct** which has been approved by the Principal and ratified by School Council.

All staff, contractors, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are required to comply with the **Code of Conduct** by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour below. The **Code of Conduct** applies in all school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.

The **Code of Conduct** is on display at the school and available on our website.



## **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 4:** SCREENING, SUPERVISION, TRAINING AND OTHER HUMAN RESOURCE PRACTICES THAT REDUCE THE RISK OF CHILD ABUSE

The Principal of RPS ensures that the school follows the **Recruitment in Schools Guide** to ensure hiring practices are child-safe.

All job vacancies which involve child-connected work specify the job's requirements and duties regarding child safety and preferred applicants are screened for suitability. All new and existing staff undertake Child Safety training.

**Visitors** and **Volunteers** meet the school's policies regarding suitability for working with children through screening processes such as the **WWCC**.

Sign-in procedures at the school include agreement to the **Child Safety Code of Conduct**.

In all school-related activities, supervision and support arrangements are in place to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.





## **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 5:** PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Ripponlea Primary has a **Child Safety Reporting Obligations (including Mandatory Reporting)** policy which is approved by the Principal. This policy is available on our website.

Annual and refresher training is undertaken by staff members on identifying signs of child abuse (including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and grooming, family violence and neglect). This training includes staff reporting obligations and procedures for responding to suspected child abuse.

The **Four Critical Actions for Schools** in responding to incidents, disclosures and suspicions of child abuse are on display around the school and available on the staff-shared digital drives.





## **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 6:** STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY AND REDUCE OR REMOVE RISKS OF CHILD ABUSE

Staff at Ripponlea Primary undertake regular training on identifying risks of child abuse their mandatory obligations.

Child Safety and Wellbeing are standing items for whole-staff briefings and team meetings. The **SAFEMinds Safety Map** is used as a discussion tool for teachers to plan management and responses.

Students learn about safety through the curriculum including **Cyber Safety, Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships** and explicit teaching of our **school-wide positive behavior support**.

Risk assessments for camps, excursions and incursions include analysis of risk relating to child abuse and neglect.

## **CHILD SAFE STANDARD 7:** STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE CHILD PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Students learn about safety through the RPS **School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support**.

Explicit focus on personal safety is taught at each level through the framework of the **Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships** curriculum.

**Cyber Safety** is promoted through the delivery of the ICT curriculum and reinforced in our Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement.

Child-friendly **PROTECT** posters are on display around the school and referenced by teachers and staff periodically through the year.

## RIPPONLEA PRIMARY HAS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHILD ABUSE

We urge ***all*** of our community to commit to child safety.

Please visit our school's website to find out more about our [Commitment to Child Safety](#) and our [policies](#) that support this commitment.

Please visit the Department of Education and Training's parent information page on [Child Protection](#) which contains a range of advice and resources including an excellent parent resource for children on [How to Be Safe](#).

