**HEPBURN Primary School**

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**Established 1864 No. 767**

**Child Safe Standard Two-Commitment to Child Safety**

**Overview:**

Child Safe Standard 2 requires schools to develop and publicly communicate a Statement of Commitment to child safety or a school Child Safe Policy. This policy is relevant to all staff, volunteers, contractors and any other members of the school community involved in child related work.

**Our commitment:**

Hepburn Primary School is committed to child safety and Child Safe Practices.

**Implementation:**

Hepburn 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.

Hepburn Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Hepburn 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 children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Hepburn 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.

In its planning, decision-making and operations Hepburn Primary School will:

* Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
* Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
* 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;
* Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
* 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.

This policy and the Child Safe Standards will direct our staff and volunteers on how to behave with children in our organisation.

* All of our staff and volunteers must agree to abide by our code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct required when working with children.
* Training and education of all those involved ensure that everyone in our organisation understands that child safety is everyone’s responsibility.
* All allegations of abuse and safety are recorded and records are securely stored.
* All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved, whether they be staff, volunteers, parents or children, unless there is a risk to someone’s safety.

Hepburn Primary School takes the legal responsibilities seriously, including: failure to disclose and failure to protect.

Any personnel who are mandated to make mandatory reports must comply with their duties ([[1]](#footnote-1)) If an adult has a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred then they must report the incident. Factors contributing to reasonable belief may be:

* a child states they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
* behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed ([[2]](#footnote-2))
* someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it
* observing suspicious behaviour.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

Policy reviewed and ratified by School Council on August 15th 2017

1. Mandatory reporters (doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers (including early childhood teachers), principals and police) must report to child protection if they believe on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from physical injury or sexual abuse.

   See the Department of Health and Human Services website for information about [how to make a report to child protection](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/reports-publications/guide-to-making-a-report-to-child-protection-or-child-first) <www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/reports-publications/guide-to-making-a-report-to-child-protection-or-child-first>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example behaviour, please see [**An Overview of the Victorian child safe standards**](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0005/955598/Child-safe-standards_overview.doc)**:** <www.dhs.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/word\_doc/0005/955598/Child-safe-standards\_overview.doc> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)