



## **CHILD SAFE POLICY - Statement of Commitment to Child Safety**

### **Child Safe Standard #2**

THIS IS A LEVEL TWO POLICY - CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL COUNCIL IS ADVISED BUT NOT MANDATORY.

#### **Purpose**

Raywood Primary School's Child Safety Policy sets out the school's commitment and approach to creating and maintaining 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.

#### **Rationale:**

Raywood 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.

Raywood Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Raywood 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. Our child safe policies, procedures, strategies and practices will be inclusive of the needs of all children, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable.

Every person involved in Raywood 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.

#### **Scope**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and contractors in the school environment, whether or not they work in direct contact with children or young people. This policy also applies to school council members where indicated.

The policy will apply to the school environment (see Definitions section). The policy covers both school hours and outside of school hours.

#### **Definitions**

##### ***Child abuse***

Child abuse includes:

- any act committed against a child involving:

- a sexual offence; or
- grooming; and
- the infliction, on a child, of:
  - physical violence; or
  - serious emotional or psychological harm; and
- serious neglect of a child.

### ***Child-connected work***

Child-connected work means work authorised by the school, school council, or Secretary of the Department of Education and Training and performed by an adult in a school environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present.

### ***Child safety***

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***

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

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

### ***School staff***

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

- employed by the Department of Education and Training;
- directly engaged or employed by a school council; or
- a volunteer or a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary).

## **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND CHILD SAFETY PRINCIPLES**

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

### ***Our Purpose***

The purpose of Raywood Primary School is to provide an education for all children that prepares them for a future in a rapidly changing society. The School aims to work with our families and community to enable our children to become active, lifelong learners committed to personal success and being responsible citizens in a global community. We aim to achieve these outcomes by creating a dynamic learning environment that delivers an engaging, relevant and challenging curriculum.

### ***Our Beliefs***

At Raywood Primary School our beliefs guide the decisions and behaviours of all members of our school community, including in relation to child safety:

- Each child is an individual.
- Co-operation and mutual respect for all.

- Strong community input into the management of the school.
- Respecting confidentiality.
- Fairness and equity

### **Actions:**

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

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. 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 concerns;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

### **Associated documents:**

- Child Safe Strategy
- Child safe Risk Assessment
- Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Rights and Responsibility Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity policy
- Working With Children Check register
- Visitors to the School Policy
- Supervision and Duty of Care Policy
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations (including Mandatory Reporting)
- Wellbeing Philosophy and Wellbeing Manual
- Volunteers Policy
- Staff Induction Handbook
- Victorian Curriculum Health Scope and Sequence including the Respectful Relationships curriculum.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle every three year

This policy was last ratified by School Council in **June 2021**

It is due for renewal in **June 2024** (or early if required due to changes in regulations or circumstances dictate).