



Policy Standard 2 Statement of Commitment

POLICY

1. Purpose

Kosciuszko Street 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.

Kosciuszko Street Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse. Ministerial Order No. 870 (available at www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe) states that Child abuse includes –

- 1.1. Any act committed against a child involving –
 - 1.1.1. A sexual offence or
 - 1.1.2. An offence under section 49 B (2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming)
- 1.2. The infliction, on a child, of –
 - 1.2.1. Physical violence or
 - 1.2.2. Serious emotional or psychological harm
- 1.3. Serious neglect of a child.

Kosciuszko Street 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 Kosciuszko Street 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.

2. Guidelines

3. Implementation

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

- 3.1 Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
- 3.2 Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
- 3.3 Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
- 3.4 Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
- 3.5 Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
- 3.6 Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;

- 3.7 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 issues;
- 3.8 Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
- 3.9 Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.
- 3.10 Copies of Working with Children Checks will be obtained from all contractors and volunteers, and records will be regularly reviewed to ensure currency.
- 3.11 Ensure that all volunteers and contractors entering the school have signed in, had credentials checked, are given a badge, wear their badge and sign out.

4. Evaluation

- 4.1 This Policy will be reviewed as part of the school's policy review cycle (ie at least once every three years). The review should include consideration of the following:

The Policy's on-going relevance to the school program and student needs.

Feedback from staff, parents and students.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

October 2016