



# Child Safe Standards

For Parents and School Council  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019

# WHAT IS CHILD SAFE?

- Schools have to meet legal requirements for the care, safety and welfare of their students. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian early childhood services and schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect
- Children have the right to be safe and protected, including at school. It is important that you feel confident that your child is safe and well in the care of their school.
- From 1st August 2016 schools have needed to meet child safety standards to achieve a zero tolerance to child abuse.
- In implementing the minimum child safety standards in accordance with **Ministerial Order No. 870**, Malvern Central School will take into account the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable.



# Malvern Central School Child Safe Officers

**Imogen Lippiatt**

Principal

**Grant Durham**

Assistant Principal



# Malvern Central School's Approach to Child Safety

The following slides state the child safe standard and how MCS ensures the standard is addressed in the school culture, policies, procedures and actions of the day to day running of the school.



# Standard 1: Strategies To Embed An Organisational Culture Of Child Safety

- Ensure all staff and community members know the relevant policies
- Child Safety will be a standard agenda item for school council and all school meetings
- Communicate broadly about child safety and with a mix of tools: website, Facebook, handbooks, induction documents, staff meetings, parent meetings etc
- E-smart/cybersafety within ICT curriculum
- The Resilience Project, Circle Time for Emotional Literacy and Respectful Relationships
- PROTECT resources in every learning space and office areas
- Documents to empower students through Student Voice, Agency and Leadership
- Annual Professional Development in Mandatory Reporting
- Camp Planning Documentation including Risk Assessment
- Excursion, Incursion & Events Planning Documentation

# Standard 2: A Child Safety Policy Or Statement Of Commitment To Child Safety

Malvern Central 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.

Malvern Central School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Malvern Central 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 Malvern Central 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 Malvern Central 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
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.





## Standard 3: A Child Safety Code Of Conduct

- The school will have a code of conduct for all teaching, non-teaching, contracted adults (employed or engaged), volunteers and external program providers involved in child-connected work in all school environments.
- This code of conduct will set the standards about the circumstances and ways people in the above roles are expected to behave and interact with children.
- All staff read and sign the code of conduct on an annual basis or when appointed to the position.



# Standard 4: Staff School Selection, Supervision and Management Practices for a Child Safe Environment

- Malvern Central School will ensure that staff will have:
  - Proof of identity and qualifications recorded with the school
  - their suitability for child connected work assessed
  - their history of work involving children recorded with the school
  - Signed the staff code of conduct
  - a child safety induction session
  - annual professional learning in child safety including mandatory reporting
- New staff supervision
- The School actively encourages applications from Aboriginal peoples, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with a disability.
- The School is also fair and just to staff.





# Standard 5: Procedures for Responding to And Reporting Allegations of Suspected Child Abuse

- All staff are mandatory reporters and are trained in reporting allegations and suspicions of abuse through professional learning and with the annual completion of the Mandatory Reporting elearning module.
- Malvern Central School's commitment to mandatory reporting will be outlined in the school's Mandatory Reporting Policy, displayed in teachers work spaces throughout the school and in the hand book.

# Standard 6: Strategies to Identify and Reduce or Remove Risks of Child Abuse

Malvern Central School will have procedures for all child connected work in all environments that evaluates risks in relation to child safety. This includes:

- Regular training for all staff in relation to all standards.
- Child Safe on the agenda for every meeting including leadership and School Council
- Child Safe Officers available
- Risk assessments of excursions, incursions and camps to include child safe precautions
- Volunteers, outside agencies (after school care) and contractors all screened and mandated to use child safe standards
- PROTECT posters displayed in every learning space and office areas.

The procedures will cover the work of:

- Teaching staff
- Education Support Staff
- Volunteers
- Visitors Including Contractors
- External Program Provider Staff
- Other personnel the school deems appropriate.

# Standard 7: Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

Malvern Central School will provide strategies to promote child empowerment through student programs and parent education programs that:

- Embed Student Voice, Agency and Leadership for all students, developing trusting relationships where students are heard
- Cyber Safety through esmart, Digital Technologies curriculum and in-school activities as part of the school program.
- Wellbeing team and proactive support for all students.
- Student friendly posters to promote child safety.
- Promote students' awareness of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relation to child safety practices
- Develop understanding of the processes students have in raising child safety in relation to child abuse issues in all school environments and outside school hours
- Cover educational strategies for resilience and healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality) - The Resilience Project, Circle Time for Emotional Literacy and Respectful Relationships
- Operate in accordance with *MCS Inclusion and Diversity Policy* to ensure inclusion of students who are vulnerable.