



Respect

Responsibility

Safety

HEALTHY SCHOOLS Achievement Program

## Safe Environments

### Purpose

Leadership and staff acknowledge the importance of an environment that contributes to the health and wellbeing of all staff and students. This policy confirms our commitment to:

- providing a safe, inclusive and empowering school environment for students, families, staff and visitors
- delivering safety education in one or more learning key areas of the curriculum as a part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing
- ensuring families, students and staff are key partners in promoting a safe environment.

As a health promoting school, we will promote the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and families through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment, and developing community links and partnerships.

### Policy statement

#### Background

Schools should be a safe place for everyone including students, teachers and other staff, families and members of the local community. The involvement and commitment of the whole school community is required to achieve a culture in which safe and respectful schools are everyone's concern and responsibility. It is essential that all schools promote and provide a supportive learning community where all students feel, and are, safe. Students have a fundamental right to learn in a safe, supportive environment and to be treated with respect. School staff also have the right to teach, work and participate in an environment that is safe and supportive. Similarly, parents and other local community members have a right to feel safe, supported and respected in the school context.<sup>1</sup>

#### Whole school engagement

It is recognised that every member of Beaufort Primary School has an impact on students' health and can contribute to creating a safe environment. All members of our school community, including staff, students, families and volunteers, will be supported to meet this policy.

#### Definitions

**Safe environments:** For the purposes of this policy and for the Healthy Schools Achievement Program, the 'Safe Environments' health priority area focuses on supporting physical safety, cultural safety and cyber safety.

**Physical safety:** Protection from harm and hazards that can cause injury. Identified risks are managed and minimised.

<sup>1</sup> Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs 2010, National Safe Schools Framework (revised 2011)  
[http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/NSSFramework.pdf](http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/verve/_resources/NSSFramework.pdf)



**Cultural safety:** An environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; 'where there is no assault challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together'.<sup>2</sup>

**Cyber safety/Online safety/Internet safety/E-safety:** The safe and responsible use of technology including use of the internet, electronic media and social media in order to ensure information security and personal safety. There are three main areas of risk to safety:

- 'Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interactions with other users (including bullying)
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.<sup>3</sup>

## Procedures and responsibilities

### Leadership and commitment

- Staff, families and students are involved in guiding the development and implementation of the whole school Safe Environments Policy and practices.
- Staff, families and students are provided with information about policy requirements, with opportunities to provide feedback and input.
- [Child Safe Standards](#) are followed and the school complies with [Child Protection Reporting Obligations](#).

### Healthy physical environment

- Students and visitors are appropriately supervised.
- Action is taken to minimise risks, remove hazards and protect students from harm within and outside school grounds and for excursions.
- Buildings, facilities and equipment are well maintained and any safety issues are responded to promptly.
- Students are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment when necessary to reduce injury risk.

### Healthy culture

- Diversity and cultural practices are considered when implementing this policy and safety practices.
- There are clear expectations and agreements for safe, respectful and responsible behaviours at the school and online for students, staff and families.
- Clear processes are in place to identify, report and respond to unsafe behaviours.

### Student teaching and learning

- Students are educated about positive safety behaviours, including:
  - road safety
  - correct use of facilities and equipment

<sup>2</sup> Williams R, 1999, Cultural safety – what does it mean for our work practice? *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 23, no.2, pp213–214.

<sup>3</sup> Kodo Education, 2015, Safeguarding Essentials: What is E-Safety, Retrieved from <https://www.e-safetysupport.com/stories/166/what-is-e-safety#.WydANdlzaUI>



- identifying and responding to safety hazards
  - cyber safety and respectful online behaviour
  - cultural safety and inclusive behaviour.
- Staff are supported to access professional development and resources about safety education and child safety requirements.

## Supported staff

- OH&S guidelines are met to ensure a safe work environment for staff.
- Safety information and policy requirements are included in staff orientation/induction.
- Staff are supported to learn about and practice safe behaviours, including cultural safety, cyber safety and physical safety.

## Families and community partnerships

- Safety information is provided to families, such as information and practical strategies to support safety in the school and at home.
- Partnerships are established with relevant organisations and health professionals to support safety practices where appropriate.
- Processes are in place to seek support from specialist organisations if issues of safety are identified.

## Relevant legislation and policy documents

- [Child Protection Reporting Obligations](#)
- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [National Safe Schools Framework](#)
- [DET Guidelines for School Playgrounds – Playground safety management: Section 3.2.5 \(2012\)](#)
- [Victorian Government OHS Planning Documents](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#)

## Related school policies (examples)

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Bullying Prevention
- Staff Health and Wellbeing
- Child Safety

## Monitoring and review

This Safe Environments Policy will be monitored and reviewed by the staff, school council, student representatives and the health and wellbeing team at least once every three years.

# BEAUFORT • PRIMARY • SCHOOL

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HEALTHY  
SCHOOLS

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**Community Consultation:** November 2023

**Endorsed by school council:**

**Date:**

**Next review date:**