



# Commitment to Child Safety

## **Statement of Our Commitment to Child Safety**

Our College is committed to child safety.

We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

Our College is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

Our College has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers, including the requirement of current VIT registration for all teachers and a current Working With Children Check for all other staff and external contractors.

Our College is committed to regularly training and educating our staff on child abuse risks.

We support and respect all children, as well as our staff. We are committed to the safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We have specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team and staff to achieve these commitments.

In our planning, decision-making and operations, Victoria University Secondary College 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 issues;
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.