

RIPPONLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY



Everyone in our community has a moral responsibility to keep children safe and to protect them from harm and abuse. This Statement of Commitment helps raise awareness about the importance of child safety at Ripponlea Primary School and affirms the council's commitment to a child-safe culture and expectations.

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Ripponlea Primary School is committed to the safety, rights and well-being of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

In recognition of the increased vulnerabilities of particular groups of children, we will pay particular attention to:

- the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- the safety of children with a disability
- the safety of children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and/ or intersex
- the safety of children in out-of-home care or youth justice

The participation and empowerment of children is fundamental to our work.

Ripponlea Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse. We value diversity and will not tolerate discriminatory practices.

- Ripponlea Primary School is committed to providing a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.
- Every person involved in Ripponlea Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people are at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.
- All staff, volunteers and contractors at Ripponlea Primary School must adhere to the Child Safety Code of Conduct.
- We welcome concerns being raised about the safety of all children.
- The school will have specific policies, procedures and supports in place to enable us to meet these obligations.

Ripponlea Primary School's Principles for Child Safety

In its planning, decision-making and operations Ripponlea 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. Recognise, respect and foster children's rights;
4. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
5. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
6. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;

7. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
8. 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;
9. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
10. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
11. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

Definitions:

Child – means a child or young person who is under the age of 18 years.

Child abuse -

a) any act committed against a child involving:

1. a sexual offence
2. grooming offences under section 49M(1) of the Crimes Act 1958

b) the infliction, on a child, of:

1. physical violence
2. serious emotional or psychological harm

c) the serious neglect of a child including exposure to family violence and its effects

Conventions on the rights of the child - <https://www.unicef.org.au/upload/unicef/media/unicef-simplified-convention-child-rights.pdf>

Evaluation

The Ripponlea Primary School Council and staff will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and revise the statement tri-annually or as required by completing a review.

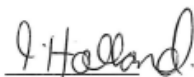
Statement of Commitment to Child Safety updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families, volunteers and visitors.

This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety was endorsed by School Council in April 2022.

Signed on behalf of all council members by:

Natalie Rose

Natalie Rose
Principal



Tarryn Holland
School Council President

Suzete Ribeiro

Suzete Ribeiro
Vice President