



Standard 10 :

Policies and Procedures Support Child Safety

Policies and procedures document how the school is safe for children and young people.

Description

Each EREA school has clearly documented Child Safeguarding policies and procedures that detail how the school meets its obligations under the law, regulation and EREA Child Safeguarding Standards to create an environment that is safe for children and young people.

Rationale

Documenting policies and procedures ensures consistent application of Child Safeguarding practices across the school. It also enables the school to examine, through review processes, adherence to child safety principles, practices, law and regulation.

Core Components

The core components of policies and procedures in a child safe organisation are:

1. Policies and procedures address all EREA Child Safeguarding Standards and comply with relevant child protection law and regulation.
2. Policies and procedures are accessible and easy to understand.
3. Accepted best practice and school community consultation informs the development of policies and procedures.
4. Leaders champion and model compliance with policies and procedures.
5. Staff, Volunteers and Contractors understand and implement the policies and procedures.



Implementation Outcomes

Successful implementation of this Standard should ensure that each EREA school has localised policies and procedures that set out how it maintains a child safe environment and complies with its legal and regulatory obligations.

Evidence of meeting this Standard should be demonstrated within each EREA school as follows:

1. Policies and procedures address the EREA Child Safeguarding Standards and child protection law and regulation.

- a. The school's Child Safeguarding policies and procedures address the EREA Child Safeguarding Standards, based on the Australian Human Rights Commission's 10 National Child Safe Principles.
- b. Policies and procedures are consistent with state or territory legislation and regulations.

2. Policies and procedures are accessible and easy to understand.

- a. The school's Child Safeguarding policies and procedures are documented in a language and format that is easily understood and accessible to Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, children and young people, families and relevant communities.
- b. Key Child Safeguarding policies and procedures are readily and publicly accessible (e.g. the Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safe Codes of Conduct).

3. Accepted best practice and school community consultation informs policies and procedures.

- a. Discussions with or surveys of children and young people, families and community members demonstrate confidence and awareness of the school's Child Safeguarding policies and procedures in promoting a child safe culture.
- b. The school's Child Safeguarding policies and procedures have been developed in accordance with policy management best practice.

4. Leaders champion and model compliance.

- a. Leaders in the school have access to appropriate experts/mentors when dealing with child safety complaints or concerns.
- b. The school's leaders develop collaborative relationships with key stakeholders to share knowledge about implementing practical child safety measures, and 'lead from the front' in terms of practical compliance with the school's Child Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- c. The regular audits of the school's compliance with the Child Safeguarding Standards include audits of the Child Safeguarding policies and procedures, and provide evidence of how the school is child safe through its governance, leadership and culture.

5. Staff, Volunteers and Contractors understand and implement the policies and procedures.

- a. Surveys of EREA directors, Staff, Volunteers and Contractors demonstrate understanding of Child Safeguarding policies, procedures and practices in the school.
- b. Staff, as well as Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors are provided with Child Safeguarding training at induction, and on an ongoing basis, to ensure their continued understanding of the school's Child Safeguarding policies and procedures, including their legal reporting obligations.
- c. Staff, Volunteers and Contractors are regularly informed of who they can approach at the school with child safety concerns or questions.
- d. The regular audits of the school's compliance with the Child Safeguarding Standards include audits of practice within school, to ensure policies and procedures are followed in practice, consistently across the school community.

