

# OUR CHILD SAFETY ACTIONS

Guided by the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order 1359<sup>1</sup>, EREA VSL commits to:

### No tolerance for child abuse and exploitation

All allegations and safety concerns are treated with urgency and responded to in line with our child safety policies and procedures, legal and moral obligations.

### Act in the best interests of children and young people

Our commitment to child safety is based on our duty of care to prioritise each child and young person's safety and wellbeing above all else.

### Cultural safety, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to reconciliation, truth-telling, healing, and building and maintaining authentic relationships that value and honour First Nations People, cultures and histories. We celebrate and embrace community and individual diversity in our schools and workplaces and promote inclusion, understanding and connection to enable each person to be their authentic self.

### Empowerment through education

We deliver age-appropriate learning on respectful relationships, resilience, and child abuse awareness, ensuring children and young people know their rights, how to keep safe and how to seek help.

### Voice and agency

We commit to creating cultures where children and young people's views, opinions and ideas concerning safety are valued, heard and meaningfully acted upon.

### Community collaboration

We work in partnership with families, carers, local agencies, regulators and authorities to strengthen protective networks around children and young people to promote their safety, wellbeing and access to services.

### Transparency and accountability

We demonstrate our commitment to child safety at all levels of the organisation by maintaining clear governance structures, ensuring policies and procedures are accessible and all complaints are managed sensitively, fairly and in a timely manner.

### Comprehensive, multi-stage recruitment processes

We emphasise child safety at every stage of our recruitment processes to attract and retain suitable individuals committed to protecting children and young people. We are clear and upfront about the importance of child safety and ensure every person working with children and young people in our communities understands their responsibilities, is aware of their obligations, and is trained to identify and manage risks.

### Support for survivors

We acknowledge the pain of children and young people harmed in institutional settings and commit to ongoing healing through TERE's *Apology to Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse*<sup>2</sup> and ensuring our response is trauma-informed.

### Strengthen EREA VSL as a child-safe organisation

We strive for continuous improvement in our child safety practices and regularly assess and refine our risk management, assurance strategies, policies, procedures and training to ensure they remain effective, measurable, and child-focused.

1. Ministerial Order 1359 - Implementing the Child Safe Standards - Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises, 1 July 2022, Victorian Government.
2. Apology to Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse, March 2023 (updated), Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia.



Parade College



St Mary's College



St Patrick's College



St Joseph's College



St Bernard's College



Saints College



BlendED

**Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition**