

CHILD SAFETY

'THIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROMOTES THE SAFETY, WELLBEING AND INCLUSION OF ALL CHILDREN'.

MINISTERIAL ORDER NO. 870-CHILD SAFE STANDARDS - MANAGING THE RISK OF CHILD ABUSE IN SCHOOLS.



MINISTERIAL ORDER NO. 870

- Ministerial Order No. 870 is a key part of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse.
- The Inquiry's *Betrayal of Trust* report recommended that implementation of minimum standards for maintaining 'child-safe environments' for all organisations with direct and regular contact with children be standardised in all registered Victorian schools.
- As a result, all Victorian schools must comply with the new Ministerial Order to be registered, and remain registered with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

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- The Order came into effect on 1 August 2016, stating all Victorian schools must be compliant by 1 January 2017 and specifies how every Victorian school **must**:
 - embed a culture of 'no tolerance' for child abuse
 - comply with the prescribed seven minimum child safe standards

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- In meeting the requirements of Ministerial Order 870, schools must be inclusive of the needs of all children, particularly students who are vulnerable due to age, family circumstances, abilities, or indigenous, cultural or linguistic background.

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- The standards are informed by three key principles that provide overarching guidance for organisations in implementing the standards:
 - promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
 - promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - promoting the safety of children with a disability.

THE CHILD SAFE STANDARDS ARE

1. strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
2. a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
3. a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
4. screening, supervision, training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
5. processes for responding to, and reporting, suspected child abuse
6. strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
7. strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

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- For schools, child safety must be a focus in the selection and recruitment of all volunteers, contractors and casual staff. The Child Safe Standards require schools to undergo more vigorous screening and monitoring of applications involved in child-connected work. Volunteers, contractors and casual staff are required to complete an induction program and provide detailed work history, referees and current WWCC.

CECV COMMITMENT STATEMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

- **A safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people in Catholic schools**
- *The Catholic school sets out to be a school for the human person and of human persons. 'The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school'. (Congregation for Catholic education 1997, par. 9)*

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO BE READ

- **In addition, there are several school policies that need to be read so all volunteers are aware of our commitment to Child Safety**
- Child Safety Policy
- School Community Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- School Community Social Media Policy

WWCC

- All volunteers must hold a current Working With Children Check and a copy of this must be supplied to the school.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SIGNED & RETURNED

- Application
- Responsibilities of a Volunteer
- School Community Child Safety Code of Conduct

THANK YOU

- *Volunteers are an integral part of our school community and help to promote strong student outcomes. We would like to thank you for the time you have taken and for your support of our commitment to Child Safety at St Thomas More School.*