

# CHILD SAFETY

## POLICY

### Rationale:

- Schools are mandated under Ministerial Order No. 870, Child Safe Standards, to ensure children and young people are safe from abuse.
- Templeton Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children.
- Templeton Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

### Definitions:

**Child safety** encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse.

**Child abuse** includes—

- (a) any act committed against a child involving—
  - (i) a sexual offence; or
  - (ii) an offence under section 49B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1958* (grooming); and
- (b) the infliction, on a child, of—
  - (i) physical violence; or
  - (ii) serious emotional or psychological harm; and
- (c) serious neglect of a child.

### Aims:

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Templeton 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. 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.

**Implementation:**

- It is the Principal's responsibility to provide a safe environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. The Principal must ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities.
- Many relevant documents need to be read in conjunction with this policy. These include:
  - Student Code of Conduct
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Working With Children Policy
  - Mandatory Reporting Policy
  - Risk Management Policy
  - Disabilities and Impairments Policy
  - Employment Policy
  - Staff Information Booklet

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**July 2016**