



Child Safety Booklet



Child Protection Officer

Principal (03) 5153 0079

Child safety statement

Acknowledging our responsibility to God, we commit ourselves to protecting the safety of those children entrusted to our care as students.

Bairnsdale Christian Community School is committed to being a Child Safe School. As such it has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.

BCCS treats its responsibilities with regards to Child Protection very seriously and with the utmost importance. To this end, policies have been developed and communicated with the community as well as procedures for all staff to follow to ensure every child is safe whilst attending our school.

BCCS is committed to ensuring each child is kept safe from harm and is committed to acting in the child's best interests at all times.



Child Safety Code of Conduct continued

Don't

- Engage in open discussions of an adult nature in the presence of students
 - Develop 'special' relationships with students that could be seen as favouritism (e.g. offering gifts or special treatment to specific students)
 - Engage in undisclosed private meetings with a student that is not your own child
 - Engage in inappropriate personal communications with a student through any medium, including online contact or interactions
 - Take or publish (including online) any photos, movies or recordings of a student unless in accordance with BCCS's Policy
 - Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
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Child Safety Code of Conduct

Expectations

BCCS has the following expectations in relation to behaviours and boundaries for all adults interacting with students within our school community.

Do

- Be vigilant and proactive with regard to student safety and child protection issues
- Promote the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of linguistically and culturally diverse students
- Report any breaches of this Child Protection Policy
- Report concerns about child safety to our nominated Child Protection Officers (Principal or Business Manager) and ensure that your legal obligations to report allegations externally are met
- Ensure as quickly as possible, where an allegation of child abuse is made, that the student involved is safe
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a student's safety



Strategy

Culture

- Staff members and parents partner with each other to nurture and encourage students to achieve to their God-given potential
- Leaders understand and are held accountable for their child safety responsibilities
- Staff members are trained to ensure that child safety is 'front of mind' at all times
- The staff regularly talk about child safety in our staff meetings with a view to eliminating or reducing risks to the safety of students

Inclusion

- Awareness programs are undertaken by staff members and students
- The staff regularly talk positively and encouragingly about our differences
- The cultural and linguistic backgrounds of students are considered by teachers in their delivery methods
- Classroom staff are trained to be equipped to cater for students with varied background needs
- Learning support is provided to students in order to cater for individual differences



Strategy continued

Expectations

- Workers within the school are trained in the expectations outlined by the Staff Code of Conduct
- The Child Protection Policy is made available to all members of the school community, as well as to the wider public
- Compliance with the Child Protection Policy is monitored regularly
- The Child Protection Policy is reviewed regularly by management to ensure its effectiveness

Reporting

- The School has a clear procedure to report suspected child abuse
- Reported incidents of suspected child abuse are appropriately managed
- Incidents are reported to authorities without hesitation
- The Management monitors compliance with child safety procedures



Strategy continued

HR Practices

- Job applicants are given our Child Protection Policy when applying for employment
- Job applicants are screened and commit to complying with the Child Protection Policy
- Staff members are required to maintain WWCC and Police checks.
- Job applicants are reminded in interviews about our Child Protection Policy
- Staff members are trained with regard to their obligations as part of their induction
- Teaching staff must participate in training initiatives that are designed to enhance child safety

Risk Management

- Risk assessments are regularly conducted to continually identify and eliminate or reduce risks of child abuse
- Processes exist to minimise virtual and online abuse
- The Management monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of the implementation of risk controls

Empowerment

- Age appropriate educational sessions are presented on the topic of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and self-protection strategies
- Age appropriate educational sessions are delivered regarding BCCS child safety program as preventative behaviours and how students are able to register any concerns