



Cowwarr Primary School

STANDARD 2-CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Cowwarr Primary School embraces the values Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Self Belief. We aim to have students recognise their fullest potential through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values in an environment where they learn and grow to enjoy a productive, rewarding and fulfilling life.

At Cowwarr Primary School we have a zero tolerance to child abuse!

RATIONALE

All Victorian schools are required to have a child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety that details:

- the principles that will guide the school in developing policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe school environment.
- the actions the school proposes to take to:
 - demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school's adherence to its child safety policy.
 - support, encourage and enable school staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters.
 - support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.
- Ensure that child safety is considered in the recruitment, selection and management of staff (includes contractors and volunteers).

Ministerial Order No. 870 (available at www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes) states that Child abuse Includes:

- Any act committed against a child involving –
 - A sexual offence or
 - An offence under section 49 B (2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming)
- The infliction, on a child, of –
 - Physical violence or
 - Serious emotional or psychological harm
 - Serious neglect of a child.

ACTIONS

In line with our zero tolerance to child abuse, all staff members at Cowwarr Primary School will vigilantly monitor and respond to any alleged accounts of child abuse by informing the Child Safety Officer (Principal), making a record of any suspected incidents and will lodge a report to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Child Protection as soon as practicable.

If the school identifies risks of child abuse occurring in one or more school environments the Child Safety Officer (Principal) will make a record of those risks and specify the action(s) the school will take to reduce or remove the risks. As part of our risk management strategy and practices, the school will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of our risk controls.

On an annual basis, the school will ensure that appropriate guidance and training is provided to the individual members of the school staff and school council about:

- individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for managing the risk of child abuse.
- child abuse risks in the school environment.
- the school's current child safety standards.

The school newsletter and website will regularly be used to communicate Child safety standards and the school's responsibilities to parents and members of the community. Posters will be on display in classrooms and in other areas



Cowwarr Primary School

throughout the school. Teachers will also immerse their students in child safety information by instructing them to participate in educational centred on child safety information.

Cowwarr Primary School will deliver appropriate education about Resilience, Healthy and Respectful Relationships by utilising resources from the DET Protect website:

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard7_Guidance.pdf

- Implementing “Catching on Early” and “Rights, Resilience, Respectful, Relationships” health and sexuality education programs.
- Implementing a comprehensive Health and Physical Education program and scope and sequence which draws on elements from “Catching on Early”, “Rights, Resilience, Respectful, Relationships”, the “Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum” and “Child Wise Personal Safety Education Program”.
- Promoting mental health and wellbeing through PBS & the Restorative Practice initiative.
- Involving students in decision making through the Voice team & SWPBS.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school’s review cycle.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 1 September 2020 and is scheduled for review in September 2024.