



Commitment to Child Safe Standards

Date: July 2016

PURPOSE

Elwood College is committed to the safety of all children and young people within the school and wider community. The college formally acknowledges its commitment to meeting the standards as set out in Ministerial Order 870: Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools.

COMMITMENT

Elwood College continues its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, and maintains zero tolerance towards child abuse.

Elwood College is committed to providing an environment where all children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Every person involved in Elwood College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role s/he plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

GUIDELINES

In planning, decision-making and operations Elwood College 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; through the Child Safe Code of Conduct and supporting materials
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development on child safety issues

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.

RESOURCES

[Ministerial Order 870: Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools](#)

[DET's online resources in the "Protect" section.](#)