



We are a Child Safe School

2017 Policy Update



As part of our ongoing review system, our Child Safety Policies have recently been updated. Initially developed in 2016 they are in response to Ministerial Order No. 870. This Order requires all Victorian schools to implement *7 minimum standards* to make sure children entrusted to our care are kept safe.

As image-bearers of God we want every student to flourish in all aspects of their life and for all children to feel loved and respected.



To glorify God through Christ-centred education that helps children develop their God given potential

Belong Believe Become

Heathdale Christian College has a zero tolerance of child abuse. We have developed a series of *Policies and Procedures* as well as a *Code of Conduct* for all employees, volunteers and contractors working with our students. This is aimed at protecting children from abuse to embed a **Culture of Child Safety** in the school environment. We completely reject any action or behaviour that results in the abuse of a child in our community.

Our policy includes details on the following topics:

- How our policy is implemented
- What responsibilities are held by different members of the community
- The recruitment of school staff
- How we respond to information on abuse

At the centre of our policy is the ***Child Safety Code of Conduct***.

This Code of Conduct outlines a range of positive behaviours as well as the identification of unacceptable behaviours.



Positive Behaviours

- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children.
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse or any child safety concerns to the school leadership team.
- Ensuring that as far as practicable, adults are not alone with children.
- Complying with all mandatory reporting obligations.

Negative Behaviours

- Using inappropriate language in the presence of children or engaging in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children.
- Putting children at risk of abuse through isolation.
- Exhibiting behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical.
- Disregarding any suspected or disclosed child abuse.



This policy relates to all employees, volunteers and contractors. Parents who wish to be volunteers throughout the year agree to, and abide by, our commitment to uphold our Child Safety Code of Conduct.



The College has appointed six Child Safety Officers across our campuses, so our parents, staff and students have a number of people they can approach if they have queries or concerns. These are our Assistant Principals: *Graeme Hallett, Elizabeth Nelson, Lyn Moffett, Nick Smith* Our Student Chaplains: *Linda Timmerman & Andrew Seedhom.*

We ask that you take the time to have a look at our full Child Safety Code of Conduct, Policy & Procedures. Please click the link below
www.heathdale.vic.edu.au/about-us/child-protection-statement

Parents are welcome to come and collect a copy of the Policy, Procedures and Code of Conduct from Reception at either the Werribee or Melton Campus.

As we work in partnership together, this responsibility and commitment needs to be owned by all of us. Thank you for joining and supporting us in this important task.

Ross Grace

Principal / CEO



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