



Holy Name Primary School Child Safe School Philosophy

At Holy Name Primary School, we believe in upholding the dignity of every one of our students and giving them every opportunity to develop into people who have a positive sense of self, are socially responsible and have skills that will allow them to participate fully in their academic journey. As a Catholic school, our mission to ensure the safety and general wellbeing of our students is given another layer of responsibility, as we recognise that each student is created in the image of God. Through our Catholic faith, we strive to create an environment for our students that reflects our Catholic belief system.

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

At Holy Name Primary School, we recognise our obligation to ensure that our student's safety is embedded into our culture, and that our practices, policies and protocols are consistently reviewed to provide surety that our ethical imperative of keeping children safe is recognised, understood, valued and upheld by all staff, volunteers and community members within the school.

Holy Name's leadership has incorporated all requirements of Ministerial Order 870 (Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools - 2015) into the appropriate school's policies, procedures and all school environments (all school environments include (a) the school campus; (b) online school environments and; (c) other locations provided by the school for a child's use including, without limitation, locations used for school camps, sporting events, excursions, competitions and other events).

Strategies we have used to implement a culture of child safety at Holy Name Primary School include:

- Establish a Child Safety Committee
- Develop appropriate practices, policies and protocols that establish strong and clear governance arrangements
- Utilise staff meetings for all school staff to develop a high degree of awareness of the child safety reforms, other related legislation and the schools practices, policies and protocols
- Being especially vigilant in supporting the wellbeing of our most vulnerable children
- Foster a culture of transparency and open communication which empowers all

members of the community to discuss child safety and raise any concerns about child abuse

- Enable professional learning and training of staff to build deeper understandings of child safety and prevention of abuse.
- Establish a system for regular review and improvement of child safety related policies and practices.

Evaluation

- This statement detailing our schools Child Safe School philosophy, will be reviewed in consultation with all members of the wider community as part of an ongoing review cycle. (July 2016)

References

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) 2016, *Commitment Statement to Child Safety: A safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people in Catholic schools*, CECV, East Melbourne, accessed 16 May

State of Victoria, Department of Education and Training 2016, *Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools Ministerial Order No. 870*, Education & Training Reform Act 2006, Gazette No. S2, accessed 16 May 2016