



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; and
- 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; and
 - support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.
- 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/childsafe) 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.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Langley Primary School values ensure we are: Respectful, Responsible, Courageous and Kind

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.

In support of this.....

Langley Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Langley Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Langley Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability. Every person involved in Langley Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she 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.



PRINCIPLES FOR CHILD SAFETY

"In its planning, decision-making and operations Langley Primary School will:

- Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
- Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
- Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
- Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
- Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
- 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;
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers."

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school's review cycle or if legislative or other changes require changes in the interim.

Ratified by School Council on 20/10/2020

Next review - November 2022