

Child Safe Standard 3

Child and Student Empowerment

Description

Glen Huntly Primary School ensures students feel safe and comfortable in reporting concerns or allegations of abuse. Glen Huntly Primary School implements easily understood and accessible processes that help students understand what to do if they want to report abuse, inappropriate behaviour or concerns for their safety. All staff have an awareness of children's rights and adults' responsibilities regarding child abuse.

How Glen Huntly Primary School promotes participation and empowerment of children:

- We provide students with child-appropriate and accessible information about what child abuse is; their rights to make decisions about their body and their privacy, that no one has a right to injure them, and how they can raise concerns about abuse. Information is included in welcome packs, information sessions and required and approved DET PROTECT Child Safety posters displayed in all learning environments and in the Office Administration area, as well as on websites and social media.
- We ensure information and processes for reporting concerns are accessible to all students
- We utilise access to professionals to translate information (including information about children's rights, Child Safe policies, statements of commitment and reporting and response procedures) into relevant community languages, including relevant indigenous languages where necessary
- We gather feedback from students, such as surveys, focus groups, Community circle time and Respectful Relationship forums about whether they would feel safe and are taken seriously if they were to raise concerns, and we then implement improvements based on this feedback
- We enable students to express their views and make suggestions on what child safety means to them and on all Child Safe policies, reporting and response procedures and acknowledge and act upon these perspectives where possible. For example, views are gathered through Respectful Relationship forums, suggestion boxes, feedback sessions, Community circles, emails or surveys.
- We ensure services are accessible for people with a disability, as in providing appropriate communication aids such as hearing loops, provide access to DET psychology/Speech specialists, outsource specific cases to agencies – OnPsych, Family Life, Oz Child, DHHS etc.
- We would ensure First Nations and Torres Strait Islander students were accepted when identifying as indigenous and that staff and volunteers would understand appropriate responses to children/students identifying as indigenous/First Nations Torres Strait Islander people
- Encourage participation and empowerment of students in other organisational activities, such as organisational planning and decision making. Examples can be found in; Student Leadership positions, Assembly presentations, student forums, Student Representative Councils
- We raise awareness in the community about children's rights, through staff conversations with families and communications such as our Respectful Relationship program, Community Circles, Ethical and Personal and Social Capabilities and Intercultural Capabilities, websites, newsletters, Information Evenings, Parent Teacher meetings/forums/three way discussions, School Council, Glen Huntly Parents and Friends etc.



By successfully implementing these strategies Glen Huntly Primary School ensures:

- Reporting procedures for when a student feels unsafe are accessible for all students
- Students understand what child abuse is and their rights (age appropriate)
- Students understand how to report an allegation of abuse or concern for their safety to the organisation, a trusted adult and external bodies, such as the police
- Students feel safe, empowered and are treated and acknowledged seriously if they raise concerns
- Students feel empowered to contribute to the organisation's understanding and treatment of child safety
- Students' reports of concern are responded to appropriately and as required by our legal and mandatory obligations
- Staff understand how to empower students and encourage their participation

Guidance:

- [PROTECT Child Safe Standard 3](#) provides example actions for schools on this standard
- Guidance is also available to help schools develop a [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#)
- [Guidance for child safety champions](#)
- [PROTECT: Identify child abuse](#)

Templates:

- The [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#) can be used to detail how the school addresses these requirements
- [Complaints Policy](#) 
- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#) 

Related Policies:

[Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)

[Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)

[Bullying Prevention Policy](#)

[Anti-Bullying Statement](#)

Other Resources:

- [Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships and Building Respectful Relationships teaching and learning materials](#)
- [Respectful Relationships whole school approach](#)

This policy was last ratified by the School Council in October, 2022 and will be reviewed every two years, or when required to do so by DET amendments and required policy updates.