

Statement of Commitment

Mooroolbark East Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people feel and are safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability and vulnerable children. Mooroolbark East Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Every person involved in Mooroolbark East 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.

To create and maintain a child safe organisation an entity, to which the Child Safe Standards apply, must have:

- Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements.
- A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety.
- A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.
- Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.
- Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.
- Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.
- Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Mooroolbark East Primary School leadership 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.
- Ensure suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment is promptly reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk.
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

Staff, Volunteers and Contractors are responsible for:

- The prevention and detection of child abuse.
- Familiarising themselves with the Child Safety policies, procedures and Code of Conduct.
- Reporting any reasonable belief or suspicion that a child's safety is at risk to the School Principal or a member of the leadership team.
- Providing a supportive and calm environment.

All policies and strategies will be readily available to read and download from the school website and will be available for all staff and families.