

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Koonwarra Village School is committed to being a Child Safe organisation and embedding a child safe culture into our practices and processes to ensure that all children who attend the School are safe at all times and that we fully comply with the Child Safe Standards that fall under Ministerial Order 870.

Koonwarra Village School has zero tolerance for child abuse and all staff employed by Koonwarra Village School are responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and to report information about suspected child abuse

This Statement outlines the framework to ensure that Koonwarra Village School is able to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken so that students are safe from sexual abuse and can feel safe at all times.

Potential Risks to Children

The following is a summarised list of potential risks to children. The identification of the risk assists with the development of appropriate strategies to mitigate the risks.

Potential Risks to Children

Unintentional/accident harm

- Poor physical environment leading to injury
- Poor supervision
- High-risk activity
- Lack of risk mitigation strategies in place

Psychological abuse

- Bullying
- Threatening language
- Shaming
- Intentional ignoring and isolating (either face-to-face, online or via other technology)

Neglect

- Lack of supervision
- Not providing adequate nourishment
- Not providing adequate clothing or shelter
- Not meeting the specific physical or cognitive needs of children

Physical abuse

- Physical punishment
- Pushing, shoving
- Punching, slapping, biting, kicking

Cultural abuse

- Lack of cultural respect
- Racial or cultural vilification or discrimination
- Lack of support to enable a child to be aware of and express their cultural identity

Sexual abuse

- Sexual abuse, assault and exploitation
- Grooming
- Inappropriate touching
- Inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature (either face-to-face, online or via other technology)
- Crossing professional boundaries

Strategies to mitigate risk to Children

Koonwarra Village School has the following strategies to mitigate the identified risks:

- The development and publishing of this Statement of our commitment to child safety.
- A framework of policies that have been designed, informed and will be reviewed annually based on the Child Safe Risk Assessment.
- A Child Safe Risk Assessment is conducted annually and any associated policy revisions communicated to all stakeholders.
- A staff Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children signed as part of the induction process with all new employees.
- A Working With Children policy that clarifies who is required to have a working with children check. All staff are required to have a WWC or current VIT registration. The policy includes procedures for gathering, verifying and recording employment information in relation to child safety.
- Job descriptions that include child safe responsibilities and the need to comply with the standards of Ministerial Order 870
- Mandatory training provided to staff and our Board in relation to child abuse including the completion of the DET Child Safe eLearning Module during their induction.
- A clear process for reporting on disclosures and concerns about Child Safety is detailed in the Mandatory Reporting Policy & Concerns & Complaints Policy.
- A template for reporting Child Safety Incidents and referenced in the Mandatory Reporting Policy & Concerns and Complaints Policy
- Child friendly processes are in place to ensure children know who to talk to if they feel unsafe or have a concern as well as specific health curriculum eg protective behaviours
- Behaviour Management Policy that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour of children.
- Digital Technologies Policy and Digital Technology Code of Practice Agreement
- Concerns & Complaints Policy clearly outlining how to raise concerns of any nature including Code of Conduct breaches or any Child Safety concerns.
- Supervision policies that cover school-based and off-site activities

Policy framework for Child Safety

Statement of Commitment to Child Safe Standards in Ministerial Order 870

Staff Code of
Conduct

Child Safe Risk
Assessment

Working With
Children
Policy

Mandatory
Reporting
Policy

Student
Welfare Policy

Concerns &
Complaints
Policy

Student
Supervision
Policies

Bullying &
Harassment
Policy

Behaviour
Management
Policy