



Altona Primary School: *CHILD SAFE STANDARDS*

The safety of all students is of paramount importance at APS. It is our responsibility to ensure we are the advocates for children and do all that we can to make children feel safe and be safe from any form of child abuse. This responsibility extends to our whole school community.

The Victorian Government developed the *Child Safe Standards* in response to the recommendations of the *Betrayal of Trust report* that found more must be done to prevent and respond to child abuse in our community.

The *Betrayal of Trust* report recognised the strength of existing cultures, policies and procedures in place across Victorian government schools. The new Child Safe Standards provide a framework to build on these strengths and identify areas for improvement to further strengthen policy and practices that keep children safe.

We have completed a self -assessment on our current practices and policies and aligned these to reflect the 7 Child Safe Standards. Each of the standards has been ratified by our School Council. The effective implementation of these standards is to take a 'whole school approach', including students, parents and families, all staff, school council and the wider school community

All staff are undertaking professional learning to develop a clear understanding of the standards and their implementation.

Key messages:

- Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe, keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility
- We have zero tolerance for any abuse of children
- We already have policies and processes in place to protect the care, safety and welfare of children.
- There are clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with children.
- The Child Safe Standards apply to all school staff, school council, including volunteers, contractors, visitors, external providers, parents and family members.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 – Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety

STANDARD 2 – Child Safe Policy

STANDARD 3 – Code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

STANDARD 4 – Screening, supervision, training practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new & existing personnel

STANDARD 5 – Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

STANDARD 6 – Strategies to identify and reduce or remove the risk of abuse

STANDARD 7 – Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

All Child Safe Standards are on our school website.

