



Child Safe Standards

At Sydenham Hillside Primary School we believe that everyone in society has a moral responsibility to keep children safe and protect them from harm. We believe in creating an inclusive school environment that is nurturing and forward thinking and that is a place where students feel safe, valued and listened to. This approach is reflected in our school guiding principles, which form the basis of our decisions and help us to positively shape our school environment to ensure we reflect this. At Sydenham Hillside Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school as outline in the Child Safe Standards.

The Child Safe Standards (the Standards) are compulsory minimum standards for all organisations that provide services to children including Victorian schools. The aim of the Standards is to ensure organisations are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect. It is recognised that many schools will have existing policies and procedures that aim to keep children safe. The Standards provide a framework to identify gaps and improve policy and practices around child safety. On 26 November 2015, the Victorian Parliament passed the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015*, which amended the *Child Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005* to introduce the Child Safe Standards that would apply to all organisations involved in child related work in Victoria. The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) as regulator for all Victorian schools has responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Child Safe Standards in schools. The Standards are:

- Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety
- Standard 2: A child safety policy or a statement of commitment to child safety
- Standard 3: A Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse
- Standard 5: Procedures for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- Standard 7: Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment.

For more information on the Child Safe Standards please see:

[Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority \(VRQA\)](#)
[Department of Education and Training](#)