

Wyndham Central College

Commits to Child Safety Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is the strong commitment of Wyndham Central College to the care, safety and wellbeing of all students attending our school and provides procedures and strategies developed to keep students safe from harm, including all forms of abuse including, physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional or neglect.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT

All students enrolled at Wyndham Central College have the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we do not and will not tolerate child abuse in any form. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children can feel valued without concern for their safety. There is particular attention paid to the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

Every person involved in Wyndham Central College 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.

All staff, volunteers and contractors at Wyndham Central College must adhere to the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

Our commitment to students:

- We commit to the safety and wellbeing of all students enrolled at the college
- We commit to providing students with positive and nurturing experiences
- We commit to listening and empowering students by taking their views seriously and addressing any concerns that they may raise with us
- We commit to teaching students the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing
- We commit to seeking input and feedback for students regarding the creation of a safe school environment.

Our commitment to parents/caregivers:

- We commit to communicating honestly and openly with parents/carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children
- We commit to engaging with, listening to the views of parents and carers about our child-safe practice, policies and procedures
- We commit to transparency on our decision making with parents and carers where it will not compromise the safety of students

- We commit to acknowledging the cultural diversity of students and families and being sensitive to how this may impact on student safety issues
- We commit to continuously reviewing and improving our systems to protect children from any form of abuse.

Our commitment to staff (school employees, volunteers and contractors):

- We commit to providing all Wyndham Central College staff with the necessary support to enable them to fulfil their roles. This will include regular appropriate learning opportunities
- We commit to providing regular opportunities to clarify and confirm policy and procedures in relation to child safety and the wellbeing and protection of our students. This may include training in the principles and intent of the Child Safety Policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct and Child Safety Risk Assessment tool and the responsibilities associated with reporting concerns
- We commit to listening to all concerns voiced by staff, volunteers and contractors about keeping students safe from harm
- We commit to providing opportunities for school employees, volunteers and contractors to receive formal debriefing and counselling arising from incidents of the abuse of a child or young person.

WYNDHAM CENTRAL COLLEGE'S PRINCIPLES FOR CHILD SAFETY

In its planning, decision-making and operations Wyndham Central College 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, supervision and professional development;
- Ensure children knows who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

This commitment should be read and understood (but not limited to) in conjunction with the following school policies:

- *Child Safety Policy*
- *Child Protection Reporting Obligations Policy*
- *Anti-Bullying Policy*

Present to School Council 11/9/2019

Review September 2021

<https://wyndhamcentralsc-vic.compass.education/Communicate/SchoolResources.aspx>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/child-safe-standards/resources>

- *Critical Incident Policy*
- Digital Technologies and Internet Use Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy
- Supervision and Duty of Care Policy
- Working with Children Check Policy

Links and references

This commitment should be read in conjunction with:

- Ministerial Order No. 870
- Child Safe Standards – DET
- External Resources

Department of Education Resources

A step-by-step guide to making a report to Child Protection or Child FIRST (PDF – 270Kb)

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people

Other Resources:

- Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum:
- Government schools see: FUSE (Edumail password is required before searching Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum)
- Parents, see: Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum Parent Guides – Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment.

Department of Health and Human Services:

- Child Protection
- Child FIRST
- Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT)
- Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (2016)

Standards and supporting resources:

- Commission for Children and Young People (2015)
- A Guide For Creating A Child Safe Organisation, Version 2.0.
- State of Victoria (2010)
- Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people: A joint protocol of the Department of Human Services Child Protection, Department of Education and Training, Licensed Children’s Services and Victorian Schools

Related Legislation

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006
- Victorian Institute of Teaching Act 2001

EVALUATION

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- The Wyndham Central School Council and staff will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and revise the statement bi-annually or as required by completing a review.
- Statement of Commitment to Child Safety updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety was ratified by School Council in September 2020