



Camperdown College Commitment to Child Safety

Revised November 2022 in line with new Child Safety Standards coming into effect July 1st; to be read in conjunction with the Camperdown College 'Child Safety Responding and Mandatory Reporting' Policy, also revised November 2022.

1. Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Camperdown College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse. Our school community recognises the importance of ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

Every person involved in Camperdown 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.

Particular attention will be paid to the needs of students with disability, students from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students who are in out of home care, LGBTIQ+ students, and students who are new to the school having transferred from local, interstate or international settings.

Through education, action and celebration, Camperdown College will create a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal students and their families. Every student's ability to express their cultural identity and enjoy their cultural rights will be supported and nurtured. All members of the school community, including all staff, will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and the importance of cultural identity to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal students. The school will take a proactive approach through curriculum to educate students about racism and measures will be in place to address any instances of racism through the school's behaviour management and respectful relationship practices.

The Camperdown College core values of excellence, respect, responsibility, caring and honesty will underpin the school's actions in meeting its obligations under Ministerial Order No.1359 and upholding equity and respect for diversity.

In its planning, decision-making and operations Camperdown College will take an inclusive, preventative and proactive approach to child safety by:

1. Implementing the Department of Education's child-safe recruitment practices and engaging only the most suitable staff and volunteers to work with children; verifying the suitability of volunteers and DET and School Council employees through Working with Children clearances and/or VIT registration; and providing high quality induction, supervision, training and professional development to ensure that at least annually all staff, School Councillors and volunteers are made aware of the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct and mandatory reporting processes;
2. Fostering a culture of openness that supports and encourages all school staff, parents, volunteers, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters; and supporting children who disclose alleged child abuse, as either the victim or the reporter of, as well as any person otherwise linked to suspected child abuse;
3. With input sought from the wider school community, regularly reviewing policies and procedures that put student safety and wellbeing at the centre;

4. Reporting suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities and sharing information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk;
5. Valuing the input of and communicating regularly with families and carers, ensuring that families are supported to participate in decisions relating to child safety and wellbeing which affect their child;
6. Reviewing and communicating the school's complaint handling procedures through a Community Grievance Policy that is accessible and easily understood by students, families and staff, and ensure complaints, including those relating to child safety and wellbeing, are taken seriously and responded to in a timely manner;
7. Implementing information technology controls, a Yard Duty and Supervision Policy and a Digital Learning Policy that address online conduct and safety and mitigates risk in online environments without compromising a child or student's right to privacy, social connections and learning opportunities;
8. Reviewing and taking steps to mitigate the risks that physical locations around the school present to child safety.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on school website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	16/11/2022
Approved by	Acting Principal <i>Nick Angus</i>
Next scheduled review date	March 2024

**Will be reviewed every two years or more frequently if required,
in response to a critical incident relating to child safety.**