



CHILD SAFE POLICY

Rationale:

Balnarring Primary is committed to providing a child safe environment where children are safe and feel safe. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision making. Balnarring Primary has zero tolerance of child abuse. Every person involved in Balnarring Primary School 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.

This policy applies across all school environments including school camps, the use of digital technology and social media and outside of school hours.

Aim:

To foster a culture that takes a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety.

Implementation:

- Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely, disclose risks of harm to children
- Respect and cater for the diversity among children including race, cultural and religious beliefs, physical and intellectual abilities
- Ensure all staff and parents are aware of their responsibility to report to the principal or assistant principal or appropriate authority if they have formed a belief that a child is in need of protection
- When such a belief is formed a mandatory report will be made to the Department of Health and Human Services by the person forming the belief or by the assistant principal or principal
- Failure to make a report when such a belief is formed may amount to a criminal offence
- All allegations of child abuse are documented and kept in the assistant principal's office
- Ensure children know who to talk to if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and are encouraged to raise such issues
- Provide students with exposure to phone numbers such as Kids Helpline through the mechanism of our Esmart curriculum
- Provide the appropriate support for children who disclose child abuse
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
- The We Care Hour, Family Life Victoria and health program will provide children with appropriate education about healthy and respectful relationships and to be safety conscious in relation to themselves and others
- The child safe policy will be made available for parents on the school's website and referred to in the school newsletter
- Regular meetings of the Wellbeing Committee will agenda student safety
- Provide professional development for all staff in Child Safe Standards and Mandatory Reporting
- Provide staff with written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children

- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality volunteer supervision and professional development
- Ensure external providers engaged to work with children have a WWC

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/dutyofcare.aspx>

Risk management strategies have been developed within the following school policies and practices

- Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures
- Code of Conduct
- Student Welfare and procedures
- Attendance
- Cyber - bullying
- Duty of Care
- Anti – Bullying
- Parent helpers training program

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

July 2016