

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

East Doncaster Secondary College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

East Doncaster Secondary College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

East Doncaster Secondary College promotes a culture of inclusion taking into account the diversity of all children. It is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular care is paid to children of ATSI children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability and vulnerable children.

Every person involved in East Doncaster Secondary 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.

Actions the school proposes to take in our planning, decision-making and operations, all personnel at East Doncaster Secondary College will;

1. Demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitors the school's adherence to its child safety policy and statement of commitment
2. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
3. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
4. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
5. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
6. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
7. Appoint staff to responsibility positions including: Child Safety coordinator and Designated teacher supported by the College Wellbeing and Engagement team.
8. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
9. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
10. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
11. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
12. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.
13. Adhere to legislation and inform the College community about the obligation meet to "Failure to disclose" and "Failure to protect" procedures. College procedures do not impinge on the responsibilities of staff regarding failing to disclose suspected child abuse or failing to protect a child reporting child abuse.

Further information

Failure to disclose

https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/embridge_cache/emshare/original/public/2018/07/f0/bbce5bd2b/failure_to_disclose_betrayal_of_trust_factsheet_2017.pdf

Failure to Protect

http://assets.justice.vic.gov.au/justice/resources/Of547d32-a4c4-4e05-9fbf-7415a4b4e3f6/failure_to_protect_betrayal_of_trust_factsheet_2017.pdf

Relevant East Doncaster Secondary College Policies

https://www.eastdonsc.vic.edu.au/our_school/child-safety-standards
<https://www.eastdonsc.vic.edu.au/policy-documents>

Evaluation

Reviewed: *March 2019*

Date of next review: *March 2020 or as directed by DET.*

Signed:

School Council President: Stefan Kazakis

Principal: John Roberts