

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Child Safe – Standard 2

Rationale

Everyone in society has a moral responsibility to keep children safe and to protect them from harm. A Statement of Commitment to child safety helps raise awareness about the importance of child safety in school and the community and affirms the organisation's commitment to child safety and expectations.

Statement

Aireys Inlet Primary School 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. Aireys Inlet Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Aireys Inlet Primary School 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 attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of young children and those with a disability.

Every person involved in Aireys Inlet 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 are at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Implementation

The school's plan for creating a Child Safe culture will be communicated to the community on our website, along with all of the school's policies. Information about Child Safety will also be published in the school's newsletter, displayed around the school on noticeboards and distributed at parent information sessions.

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Aireys Inlet Primary School will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child-rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high-quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know whom to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;

9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

Evaluation

- This statement of commitment will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
- This policy was last ratified by School Council – **May 2017**