

Commitment to Child Safety

Berengarra takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all Child Safety Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)

Berengarra School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Berengarra School has zero tolerance for child abuse. We are 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 children with a disability. Every person involved in Berengarra 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.

In its planning, decision-making and operations Berengarra 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 who 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.

This Commitment Statement should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

CS 1 Allocation Roles Responsibilities

CS 1 Leadership & Governance

CS 3 Child Safe Code of Conduct

CS 4 External Providers Consultants

CS 4 Staff Appts Due Diligence

CS 5 Reportable Conduct Scheme Victoria

CS 5 Responding and Reporting Obligations

CS 5 Response to students disclosing abuse

CS 6 Risk Management Strategies to identify

CS 6 SGA Identification Minimisation of Risk

CS 7 Participation and Empowerment of Students

Endorsed by Board: Aug 2016; Feb 2018; Oct 2018; Oct 2020

Review: Oct 2022