



# Swinburne Senior Secondary College

## Commitment to child safety policy

### Policy Statement

---

Swinburne Senior Secondary College is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and this is the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

### Guidelines

---

Swinburne Senior Secondary College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Swinburne Senior Secondary College 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, children who identify as LGBTIQ, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in the College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she/they 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.

### Implementation

---

Swinburne Senior Secondary College is committed to child safety in regards to its planning, decision-making and operations. The College:

1. Takes a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Values and empowers children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Fosters a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
4. Respects diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provides written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children and young people;
6. Engages only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensures 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. Reports suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Shares information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Values the input of and communicates regularly with families and carers.

**Review**      Annually

---

**Links**

---

**Certification**

---

This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at

Hawthorn      on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016

Michael O'Brien  
Principal

Carolyn Blackburn  
School Council President

***Endorsed by School Council and effective as of: 6/12/2016***