



# Swinburne Senior Secondary College

## Commitment to child safety policy

### Policy Statement

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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

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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 and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children who identify as LGBTIQ, as well as the safety of children with disabilities and vulnerable children.

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

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

## Resources

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- (1) <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/photoandfilm.aspx>  
The policy says the school should get consent before taking and publishing photos of a student. This applies every time a photo is taken. The same policy applies for excursions and school activities.
- (2) <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>
  1. The policy says the school must obtain school council approval before alcohol can be consumed on school grounds or at a school activity. The policy says staff members should not consume alcohol during camps and excursions. It is silent on whether they can consume alcohol at other school events where students are present, this is a matter that the school needs to decide upon.

Swinburne Senior Secondary College Policies:

[Commitment to child safety](#)

[Child Safety Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures](#)

## Certification

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This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at Hawthorn on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019.

Michael O'Brien  
Principal

Craig Hickman  
School Council President

***Endorsed by School Council and effective as of: 25/03/2019***