



Catholic Schools Child Safe Schools

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cowes

Child-friendly edition of our Child Safety Policy

Date of policy: 1/12/17

Date of last major review:

Date of next major review: 1/06/18



Policy Title

Our Lady Star of the Sea Child-friendly edition of our Child Safety Policy

<p>Introduction</p>	<p>What does our school value and why is child safety important in our school?</p> <p><i>At Our Lady Star of the Sea protection for children and young people is based upon the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and that the inherent dignity of all should be recognised and fostered. Everyone in our community has the right to feel safe at all times</i></p> <p><i>Our Lady Star of the Sea is committed to complying with Ministerial Order 870 and following the Victorian Child Safe Standards. Our whole school community understands that child protection and safety means that protecting children from harm is evident in the everyday thinking and practice of leaders, staff , students and volunteers.</i></p> <p>School Vision and Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary school provides a quality and holistic education, where each child is nurtured in the tradition of a Catholic community that is prayerful, accepting, loving and safe.</i><i>• We promote a sense of independence and self-motivation, encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning and where the person of Jesus and His teachings are central. Our Lady Star of the Sea is welcoming and open to all who seek a Catholic education.</i><i>• All children experience a safe, stimulating learning environment where learning potential will be challenged. We recognise and embrace the individual differences of each child and ensure they are valued, affirmed and empowered.</i> <p><i>Our Motto is Courage, Compassion and creativity</i></p>
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>Why do we have a policy?</p> <p><i>The policy is in place so that all members of our community understand that the safety and protection of children is a priority at Our Lady Star of the Sea.</i></p>
<p>Principles</p>	<p>What are the important ideas that guide our actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Violence of any type is not tolerated</i><i>• The children need to be taught what being safe looks like, feels like and sounds like.</i><i>• Everyone has a right to be safe .</i><i>• It is everyone’s responsibility to help others stay safe.</i><i>• All children have a right to feel safe no matter from what culture or language background</i><i>• Our school environment is expected to be safe for everyone and we all help each other so that this happens.</i><i>• We all understand the CECV commitment to child safety</i><i>• All staff members are responsible for the children in our care and must look out for their protection and wellbeing.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Our lady Star of the Sea we work in partnership with parents to give the students to best education possible. • We are always respectful of students when dealing with any safety issues • The principal will always make sure all staff understand their legal responsibility in respect to child protection and child safety. • We will always be confidential when dealing with issues of child safety.
Policy commitments	<p>What pledges do we make to our school community?</p> <p>We pledge to always put safety and protection of children first.</p>
Expectation of our school staff	<p>Why do we have a Code of Conduct for adults working in our school?</p> <p>We have a code of conduct in our school to make it clear to everyone what is and what is not acceptable behavior and to protect all members of our school community.</p>
Student participation	<p>How are students involved in child safety discussions and planning for improvements in our school?</p> <p>We have regular meetings with all our students to make sure they understand what being safe means and to listen to any concerns or questions they may have.</p>
Reporting and responding	<p>How do we report our concerns and how do teachers respond?</p> <p>If a student has concerns they will let the staff or their parents know and the issue will take appropriate action in line with their professional responsibilities and training.</p>
Recruitment	<p>How are staff selected to work in our school?</p> <p>We advertise for staff and follow the CECV guidelines.</p>
Professional learning for school staff	<p>How does the school support staff to develop their knowledge about child safety?</p> <p>Child safety is a set agenda item for our staff meeting. All staff have access our policies. We undertake Professional Learning to ensure we all understand the importance of child safety and child protection.</p>
Risk management	<p>How does our school identify possible risks, who is involved and what happens next?</p> <p>All staff are responsible for managing possible risks both at school and away from school. Staff will be trained in using the Student Activity Locator and the PROTECT documents. Regular professional learning and discussion ensures child safety is always a part of the Our Lady Star of the Sea culture.</p>
Supporting documents	<p>What other information do we use to help us?</p> <p>www.dhs.vic.gov.au/home www.cecv.catholic.edu.au www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/Pages/safety.aspx www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safety+communities/protecting+children+and+families/betrayal+of+trust+implementation</p>

Communication	<p>How does the school let everyone know about this policy and our plans?</p> <p><i>The school will have the policies on the website. There will be regular inserts included into the newsletter. As a staff Child Safety will be a regular inclusion at our staff meetings. Whole school assemblies will also include information in regard to child safety. All new members to our community and visitors to our school will go through an induction process to ensure they understand the importance of Child Safety.</i></p>
Review	<p>When will we update this policy?</p> <p><i>The policy will be reviewed every 6 months and will incorporate suggestions from teachers, volunteers, other staff, children and young people and parents.</i></p>