

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Mount Waverley North 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.

The school's approach to creating and maintaining a child safe school environment is guided by our school philosophy and values.

At Mount Waverley North Primary School we:

- Have high expectations and challenge ourselves to reach for aspirational goals
- Are an inclusive learning environment. Our students, families, staff and the wider community commit to positive relationships to achieve social-emotional wellbeing and academic success
- Cater for the needs of our students by providing engaging curriculum and innovative practices
- Nurture curiosity and inquiring minds by providing rich learning experiences
- Are courageous, resourceful learners who are self-aware and empathetic.

We know children can struggle to achieve their personal best if they are not safe from abuse.

At Mount Waverley North Primary School, our values guide the decisions and behaviours of all members of our school community, including in relation to child safety:

- **Respect** - We respect ourselves, each other and the environment. We interact with others in a positive, courteous and kind manner. We celebrate our differences and diversity.
- **Integrity** - We take responsibility for our actions and we are reliable, trustworthy and honest. We are fair and always give our best.
- **Excellence** - We have high expectations of ourselves and those around us. We maintain a growth mindset and strive to achieve our goals. We seek continuous improvement.

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- **Global Citizenship** - We have an appreciation for and are curious about the world, its cultures and the diversity of its peoples. We are prepared to take action to better our world, both locally and beyond.

Mount Waverley North Primary 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. Our child safe policies, procedures, strategies and practices will be inclusive of the needs of all children, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, international students and children who are vulnerable.

Every person involved in Mount Waverley North Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play 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.

Child safety principles

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Mount Waverley North 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 who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such concerns;

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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.

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