

## Approved Child Safety Policy

### 1. Rationale:

Thomas Mitchell Primary School is and has always been committed to child safety. This requires the School to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate risk management strategies to ensure child safety in school environments

### 2. Aims:

- To ensure School processes and practices respond to the recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust inquiry by enacting Ministerial Order No. 870, address Child Safe Standards and meet the requirements for VRQA registration
- Identify the school's child safety risks
- Identify any risk mitigation measures and internal controls
- Assess and rate the school's child safety risks given the existing controls in place, taking into account the likelihood of risk, and the likely consequence of the risk
- If the risk is more than the "acceptable level", identify further risk management strategies through additional controls or prevention, detection or mitigation strategies and then reassess the risk

### 3. Implementation:

- Thomas Mitchell Primary School will have zero tolerance of child abuse. Child abuse includes physical violence, sexual offences, serious emotional or psychological abuse and serious neglect.
- All people engaged or recruited for child-related work, including volunteers, are required to hold a current Working with Children Check and/or VIT teacher registration to provide evidence for the School's records. This is consistent with current Department of Justice and DET regulations and the Working with Children Check Policy. The School Staff Register is current and maintained regularly.
- Implement the School Mandatory Reporting Policy and ensure new teachers are inducted and that it is included in the Staff Information Book that is available to all staff. The Mandatory Reporting Policy articulates legislative requirements for staff and advice on when and how to make reports.
- Any allegations of abuse and/or safety concerns and any subsequent school investigations will be documented and securely stored. The secure storage is maintained and confidentially secured in the Student Welfare Office (or other as appropriate).
- To ensure appropriate supervision of all classes, excursions, camps and school environment.
- The School is committed to cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability by making appropriate accommodations
- Key staff will be identified within the school that have knowledge of child safety issues and will act as the key contact point for others who have questions or concerns or want to report an allegation of child abuse. The key staff are the Principal Team and Student Wellbeing Manager. A flag is also



entered onto the Cases 21 database as required by DET and also onto Sentral by the Student Wellbeing Manager.

- Proactive strategies to address e-safety including maintaining accreditation as an eSmart School.
- Implementation of the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and the Anti- Bullying Policy.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, and at times when our emergency management procedures are under review.