



Together we Grow

South Gippsland Specialist School

Child Safe Statement of Commitment POLICY

South Gippsland Specialist School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This is the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

South Gippsland Specialist School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

South Gippsland Specialist School 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 and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse and gender diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of vulnerable children and children with a disability.

Every person involved with South Gippsland Specialist School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she 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.

Safeguarding children underpins our policies and procedures in relation to the protection of children and young people and guides the following:

- The screening and recruitment of our personnel
- The behaviour of our staff towards children and young people
- The induction and training of our staff about safe guarding children and young people
- Our open and effective communication with children and young people and their parents
- Our response to the abuse of children if it occurs
- Our maintenance of a safeguarding culture in our school

Implementation:

In its planning, decision-making and operations South Gippsland Specialist 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.

References:

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.

Evaluation:

This statement will be reviewed annually or in the event of an incident.

This statement was last ratified by School Council on October 2019 and will be reviewed in 2021