



DOBCEL Child Safe Commitment 2025

In alignment with the Victorian Catholic Education Authority's (VCEA) Child Safe Commitment, DOBCEL, in partnership with families and broader communities, strives to pursue the fullness of life for all children and young people. Together, we continue our work of ensuring the care, safety, wellbeing, and protection of our students in 2025. With God's love, we continue to empower children and young people to face the future with courage and kindness.

DOBCEL's Commitments

DOBCEL is dedicated to providing safe, nurturing, and empowering school cultures for all children and young people by:

- **Upholding the Primacy of Safety:** Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people are prioritised in all decision-making.
- **Empowering Voices:** Enabling families, children, young people, and staff to voice concerns and provide feedback.
- **Implementing Rigorous Practices:** Utilising robust risk management and employment procedures to safeguard children.

Start-of-Year Requirements for School Leadership

To meet child safety requirements effectively, school leaders should ensure the following actions are undertaken at the start of each academic year:

1. **Staff, Volunteer, and Contractor Induction:**
 - Provide a thorough induction tailored to child-related work, covering:
 - The Child Safety Code of Conduct.
 - The Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.
 - Procedures for managing complaints and concerns related to child abuse.
 - Ensure all staff complete the annual '[Protecting Children - Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations eLearning Module.](#)'
2. **Clarify Responsibilities:**
 - Ensure all staff, governing body members, and volunteers are aware of their obligations regarding:
 - Supporting the safety and wellbeing of children and students.
 - Information sharing and reporting.
 - Recordkeeping practices.
3. **Assign a Child Safety Officer:**
 - Appoint a dedicated child safety officer responsible for supporting the implementation of the Child Safe Standards.

Ongoing Child Safety Culture

To foster a culture of child safety throughout the year, school communities must:

1. **Public Commitment:**
 - Display a public commitment to child safety prominently and make it accessible to the school community.
2. **Policy Development and Communication:**
 - Ensure the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy clearly defines expectations and practices aligned with the Child Safe Standards.
 - Maintain a Code of Conduct outlining behaviour expectations for staff and volunteers to promote child safety and wellbeing.
 - Regularly communicate policies through newsletters, staff updates, and in-person discussions.
3. **Monitoring and Feedback:**
 - Conduct formal and informal observations of staff interactions with children.
 - Provide regular feedback to staff on student safety and wellbeing.
 - Familiarise staff with the Reportable Conduct Scheme.
4. **Supervision and Compliance:**
 - Supervise and manage staff and volunteers with a focus on child safety.
 - Maintain updated copies of:
 - VIT cards and signed Codes of Conduct for teachers.
 - WWCC and signed Codes of Conduct for other staff and volunteers.
5. **Embed Child Safety into Governance:**
 - Include 'Child Safety' as a standing agenda item for all staff and SAC meetings.
 - Review Child Safety Policies and Procedures regularly, especially after any incident.
 - Ensure a child-friendly version of the Child Safe Policy is available.
6. **Protocols and Accessibility:**
 - Understand and implement PROTECT protocols.
 - Ensure Complaints Policy and Procedures are accessible to the school community.
 - Develop an understanding of the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS).

Contact for Support

For any questions or further assistance, please contact: **Jacqui Righetti**

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Wishing you a safe and successful school year.