



St Francis Xavier Primary School

CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

All students enrolled at St Francis Xavier Primary School have the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we do not and will not tolerate child abuse. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. Every person at St Francis Xavier Primary 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.

St Francis Xavier Primary School is entrusted, in partnership with parents/guardians who are the primary educators of their children, with the total education of the child. The school staff therefore has a duty of care to students during school operating hours and at other times when a staff/student relationship exists.

Our commitment to our students:

- We commit to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people enrolled in our school.
- We commit to providing children and young people with positive and nurturing experiences.
- We commit to listening to children and young people and empowering them by taking their views seriously, and addressing any concerns that they raise with us.
- We commit to taking action to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse or harm, and to report abuse.
- We commit to teaching children and young people the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing in partnership with their parents/guardians/caregivers.
- We commit to seeking input and feedback from students regarding the creation of a safe school environment.
- We commit to paying particular attention to the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.
- We commit to ensuring dealings regarding safety, the dignity, protection and wellbeing of students involved shall be maintained and respected.
- We commit to maintaining appropriate confidentiality, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed either legally or pastorally

St Francis Xavier Primary School Principal and Leadership Team recognise their particular responsibility to ensure the development of preventative and proactive strategies that promote a culture of openness, awareness of and shared responsibility for child safety. Responsibilities include:

- ensuring that all staff adhere to legislation and policies with respect to child protection and safety.
- creating an environment for children and young people to be safe and to feel safe
- upholding high principles and standards for all staff, clergy, volunteers, and contractors
- promoting models of behaviour between adults and children and young people based on mutual respect and consideration
- ensuring thorough and rigorous practices are applied in the recruitment, screening and ongoing professional learning of staff
- ensuring that school personnel have regular and appropriate learning to develop their knowledge of, openness to and ability to address child safety matters
- providing regular opportunities to clarify and confirm legislative obligations, policy and procedures in relation to child and young people's protection and wellbeing
- ensuring the school meets the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in [Ministerial Order No. 870](#).

This policy was last reviewed and ratified by SFX Leadership and School Staff - April 2020