



Commitment Statement to Child Safety

We at St John the Baptist Primary School, hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children as our central and fundamental responsibility. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

At St John's, we are committed to ensuring that our school community promote the inherent dignity of children and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe school environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children; children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

At St John's, we are committed to create a nurturing school environment where all are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe. When allegations of abuse concerning children are raised, we will take prompt action to have these appropriately referred and investigated. We strive for continual improvement that is responsive to emerging thinking, evidence and practice, so as to eliminate the possibility of abuse occurring in the first place.

At St John's, we understand that creating a child-safe school environment is a process that involves active participation and responsibility by school, our families and the community.

Every person involved in our 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 is at the forefront of all we do and every decision they make.

St John the Baptist Primary School is committed to providing a safe and nurturing culture for all children through:

1. Upholding the primacy of the safety and wellbeing of children.

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

To create and maintain a safe and nurturing culture, we will actively and continually develop and review all policies, processes and practices, informed by emerging thinking and evidence.

2. Empowering families, children, young people and staff to have a voice and raise concerns.

In partnership with families, we will ensure children are engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety.

This means that the views of staff, children and families are taken seriously and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children are also provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

3. Implementing rigorous risk-management and employment practices.

At St John's, we will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm. Effective risk management will be embedded through effective and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

At St John's, we will employ highly competent and professional staff who will maintain the safety of all students. The high-quality of staff appointments will be upheld through rigorous employment and staff review processes and practices.

At St John's, we will stay abreast of current legislation and will meet our legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children in our care, including the Victorian Child Safe Standards (Victorian Government 2016), mandatory reporting, grooming, failure to disclose and failure to protect requirements.