

# Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

## 2024-2026

### Child Safe Standards

Children have the right to be safe and protected, including at school.

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes>

### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND CHILD SAFETY PRINCIPLES

Kennington Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Kennington Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Kennington Primary 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. Our child safe policies, procedures, strategies and practices will be inclusive of the needs of all children, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable

Every person involved in Kennington Primary 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 and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

### Child safety principles

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Kennington Primary 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; A student's ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights is encouraged and actively supported. Staff, students, volunteers, and the school community are equipped to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal students. Measures are in place to ensure racism is identified, confronted and not tolerated, and any instances of racism are addressed with appropriate consequences. Active support for the participation and inclusion of Aboriginal children and students and their families.
5. Support staff and volunteers to understand the diverse circumstance of children and students, and provide support and respond to vulnerable children and students

6. Make sure students, staff, volunteers, and the school community have access to information, support and complaints processes that are culturally safe, accessible and easy to understand
7. Pay particular attention to the needs of students with disability, students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, students who are unable to live at home, international students, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) students
8. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
9. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
10. 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 concerns;
11. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
12. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
13. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers

#### **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was ratified by School Council in June 2024 and will be reviewed in June 2026.