

Kensington Community High School

- High Expectations-

Effective teaching at KCHS is to provide a safe and secure learning environment – all staff aim to engage, instruct and assess students to achieve growth at their point of need.

Child Safety

Child Safety Policy

‘KCHS Students have the right to feel safe, and to be safe at all times.’



Kensington Community High School

405 Racecourse Rd, Kensington PO Box 321, Flemington, VIC, 3031

Ph: (03) 9376 1953 Fax: (03) 9376 3594

Email: kensington.community.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au Web: www.kchs.vic.edu.au

KCHS - Child Safety Policy 2016

Rationale:

Harm and Abuse

This policy uses a broader definition of 'harm' and 'abuse' of children than may be adopted in Victorian legislation. The use of the word 'harm' is often used to describe an event that is seen as possibly less detrimental than 'abuse' but is clearly not in the child's best interest or promoting their safety and wellbeing.

This policy guide acknowledges that there is a continuum of abuse of children and views all such events, regardless of whether they are seen as 'harm' or 'abuse', as damaging.

Standards Compliance

To comply with the compulsory child safe standards, an organisation must include the following principles as part of each standard:

- promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety of children with a disability

KCHS provides this policy guide as a commitment to child safety that details:

- How KCHS creates and maintains a student safe school environment.
- Actions that KCHS proposes to embed 'Child Safety' within its culture.
- KCHS commitment to student safety.
- How KCHS encourages all staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, to discuss, and to report child safety matters.
- How KCHS supports students who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.

To promote child safety in the school environment we acknowledge the following:

At KCHS all students have a right to:

- Take part in learning programs that meet their individual needs.
- Feel secure and to be safe in a caring and supportive environment.
- Work and play without interference in an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation.
- Receive respect, kindness and courtesy and to be treated with fairness.
- Have learning continue without disruption in a supportive environment.
- Be valued for their individuality including; race, gender, cultural, physical, and/or intellectual diversity.
- Expect that KCHS school rules be fair, consistently implemented, and to respect the rights of all involved.

At KCHS all students have a responsibility to:

- Care and value themselves, others, teachers and the school community.
- Be safety conscious in relation to themselves and others.
- Treat others with respect and good manners.
- Keep the guidelines of good behavior, and to always support KCHS values and rules.
- Develop a sense of accountability for their own actions.
- Work to achieve their personal best whilst allowing others to do the same.
- Allow for others to learn and to respect the rights of others.
- Explore their full potential in their learning.

A KCHS the expectation is that all staff will adhere to the following standards that describe expected behaviour with children:

- School staff will provide opportunities for all students to learn.
- School staff will at all times treat all students with courtesy, dignity, and respect.
- School staff will work within the limits of their professional expertise at all times.
- School staff will strive to maintain objectivity in their relationships with students.

Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse

Forming a belief on reasonable grounds:

A person may form a belief on any reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection after becoming aware that a student's health, safety or wellbeing is at risk.

Reporting a belief

All KCHS staff must make a report to Child Protection as soon as practicable after forming a belief on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is in need of protection. All staff must seek a professional conversation in the first instance with the **KCHS Child Safety Officer**

once a belief has been formed in the course of undertaking their professional duties. A report must then be made as soon as practicable after forming the initial belief and on each occasion on which there is awareness of any further reasonable grounds for further belief's that become established. Please refer to the Mandatory Reporting Policy guidelines provided to each staff member that form part of the **KCHS 'Child Safety' Professional Development Procedures Policy 2016** - for all procedures in response to allegations of child harm, and/or, abuse.

Risk management strategies have been developed parallel with the, **KCHS Child Safety Professional Development Guidelines, and the KCHS Child Safety Code of Conduct, 2016**. KCHS staff have received hard copies of these policy and guidelines. All KCHS Child Safe documentation are located on the KCHS shared staff drive.

Explanatory note: Different risk controls may be necessary for particular groups of children depending on the nature of the risk and the diversity characteristics of children affected by the risk.

This Policy Was Last Ratified by School Council in:

The School Council President

School Principal

Date: __/__/2017