

CARWATHA COLLEGE P-12

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

Rationale

- Carwatha College P-12 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, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.
- The child safe environments policy sets out the school's approach to creating a child safe organisation where children and young people are safe and feel safe; and provides the policy framework for the school's approach to the Child Safe Standards.

Implementation

- At Carwatha College P-12 we have zero tolerance for child abuse.
- We are 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.
- This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, whether or not they work in direct contact with children or young people.
- This policy applies to any physical or virtual place made available or authorised by the school including:
 - The school campus
 - Online school environments (including email and intranet systems)
 - Other locations provided by the school including, without limitation, locations used for school camps, sporting events, excursions, competitions and other events).
- Every person involved in the 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.
- In our planning, decision-making and operations, we will:
 - Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety
 - Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives
 - Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
 - Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount
 - Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development
 - 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 issues
 - Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities
 - Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
 - Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.
- The following procedures outline our approach to the Child Safe Standards. They need to be read in conjunction with the Child Safe Code of Conduct.
 - Staff are encouraged to raise, discuss and scrutinise concerns making it more difficult for abuse to occur and remain hidden.
 - School leadership will ensure that each person understands their role, responsibilities and behaviour expected in protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect.
 - The school applies best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people. We will ensure that staff induction, education and training programs are a vital part of our commitment to

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safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect. All prospective staff and volunteers are required to undergo National Criminal History Records check and maintain a valid Working with Children Check.

- The College has clear expectations for staff in making a report about a child or young person who may be in need of protection as outlined in our Child Protection Reporting policy.
- Considerable importance is placed on safeguarding the confidentiality and privacy of information about particular children and their families.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three-year cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in	2016	
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