



## KEEPING SAFE: CHILD PROTECTION CURRICULUM

At Pioneer Village School Community School we actively encourage our children to have a voice, understand and recognise their feelings and build healthy relationships. In support of this our educators have had professional development in Protective Behaviours and incorporate teaching strategies into their daily classroom practice.

### Child Protection

Child protection is a sensitive and challenging area, but it is a fundamental and non-negotiable responsibility of schools to provide a preventative curriculum under the Department of Education Child Protection Policy. Alongside our embedded Protective Behaviour strategies we implement the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC).

### About the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

The KS:CPC is an evidence-based, best practice curriculum developed collaboratively with child protection specialists, teachers, educational leaders and other professionals. It covers a range of concepts including new additional material on contemporary issues such as bullying and cyber safety. It has been developed by the South Australian Department of Education and is recommended by the Association of Independent Schools WA (AISWA) as a comprehensive and excellent child protection curriculum that allows for a whole school approach extending from the age of three to senior secondary schooling.

### Organisation of Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC)

The curriculum is based on two main themes, which are presented through topics and activities.

- *We all have the right to be safe*
- *We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust*

### Focus Areas

The two themes are explored through four Focus Areas, which are examined in growing complexity in accordance with the age of the learners.

- *The right to be safe*
- *Relationships*
- *Recognising and reporting abuse*
- *Protective strategies*

**The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum** has been designed to teach children and young people to recognise abuse, tell a trusted adult, understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching and ways of keeping themselves safe. All our educators have received explicit training in the KS:CPC.

### **Informing Families**

For both families and teaching staff, the issue of child protection is an emotive topic that can generate strong feelings and reactions. The range of responses to this issue makes it an extremely sensitive area and one in which as a community we must seek to keep the rights of our children to protection paramount. As parents it is important to reinforce concepts at home especially in the sensitive issues such as anatomical names for body parts, children's rights over the privacy of their bodies, recognising situations that make them uncomfortable and reporting those situations to someone they trust.

Protective strategies cannot be employed unless children recognise situations of actual abuse or potential abuse. It is important for children to develop knowledge about what constitutes abuse and skills to protect themselves, which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, for younger students the term 'abuse' is addressed within the curriculum by the use of terms such as 'unsafe' and 'unfair'. The themes are then developed in growing complexity in accordance with the age of the learners. The KS:CPC supports our staff in dealing with this challenging and sensitive area of health and well-being by providing age appropriate lessons, topics and activities.

### **Empowering Children**

As adults we are all responsible for keeping children safe, this curriculum does not replace the parent/caregiver's responsibility to protect children and ensure their safety and is not putting the responsibility on the child. It is designed to complement parents/caregivers' roles and provides support for the learning of children. The program is informed by a fundamental belief that children have a right to physical and psychological safety at all times and that by arming them with skills and strategies to recognise their feelings and take appropriate action or seek help we give them another circle of protection. It is through awareness and preparedness we act to prevent harm.

### **Permission and Concerns**

Although parent permission is not required under the *Education Act 1972*, we encourage parents/carers to seek further clarification if required and to provide the teacher with any relevant information about their child that could alleviate any concerns. More information can be found on the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum site and it is highly recommend that all families spend some time reading through the content:

<http://tiny.cc/DECD-KSCPC>.