



CHILD PROTECTION & CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Statement of Commitment

Pioneer Village School is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse and grooming, and demonstrates this commitment through the implementation of comprehensive policies designed to keep children safe.

Pioneer Village School aims to provide a child safe and child friendly environment. At Pioneer Village School, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and grooming, and are committed to acting in children's best interests and keeping them safe from harm. The school regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance and as such, is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintain a child safe culture.

Background

In 2009, the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments as a long-term approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of Australia's children.

In 2017, the WA Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools introduced Standard 12, *Child Abuse Prevention* in response to the final recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse. Standard 12 was then reviewed prior to the release of the 2020 WA Registration Standards, and subsequently became Standard 10.

In order to demonstrate compliance with this Standard, there is an expectation from the Minister of Education that schools implement the child safe organisation principles to inform their child protection programs. Pioneer Village School aims to implement *National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*.

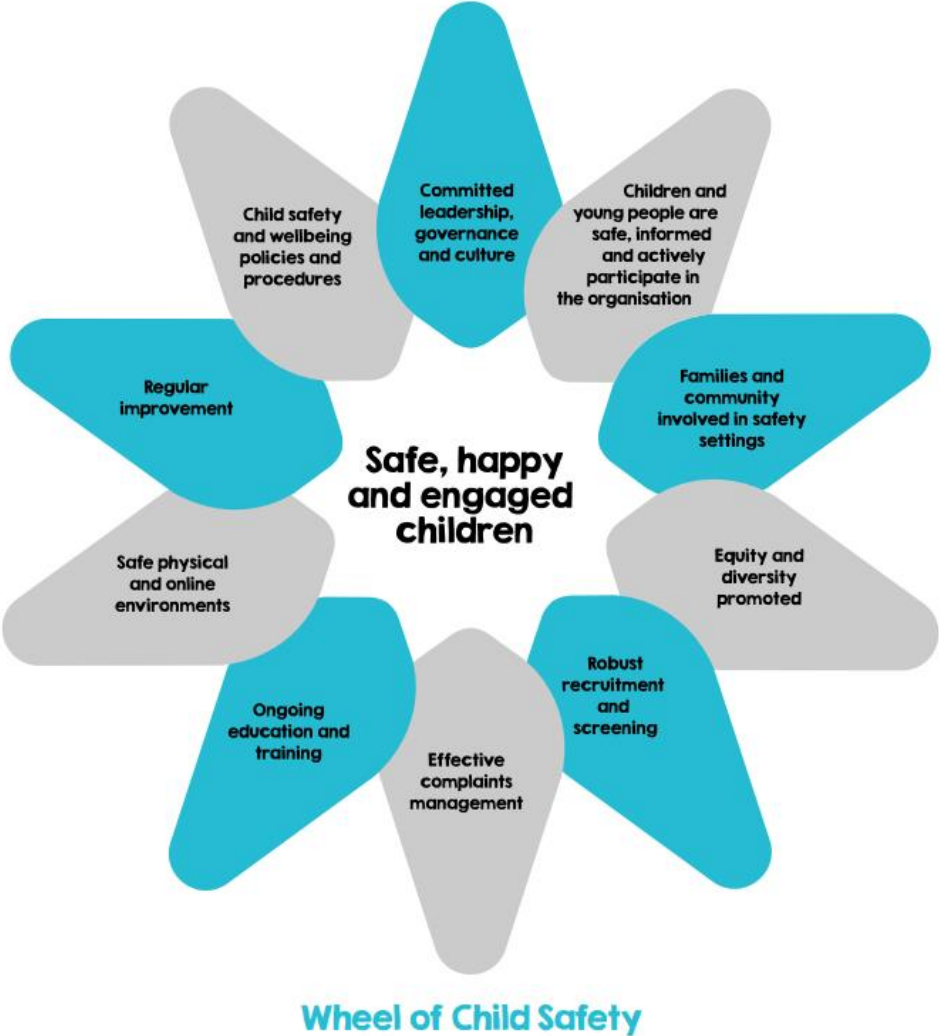
Policy Scope

As an educational institution, Pioneer Village School (PVS) has a responsibility to protect children from harm when they are at school and also to intervene when there is a belief that the welfare of a child is at risk outside the school.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, caregivers, students and members of the wider school community and must be acted upon by all staff members whether they be permanent, temporary, casual, teaching, non-teaching, or instructors. For the purpose of this policy, a staff member also includes volunteers, practicum students and interns, trainees and work experience placements.

Policy Statement

PVS, in recognising its duty to protect children from child abuse and in compliance with the current Registration Standard 10 (2020) ‘Child Abuse Prevention’ has agreed that the Child Safe Principles from the *National Principles for Child Safe Organisations* be used as the framework which inform our Child Protection policies and procedures and which comply with Standard 10 guidelines.



The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Registration Standard 10 requires schools to implement the *National Principles for Child Safe Organisations* (National Principles).

For clarity, note that Registration Standard 10 refers to the 'National Child Safe Organisation Principles' which is different to the title of 'National Principles for Child Safe Organisations' of the Australian Human Rights Commission's document setting out the National Principles.

The National Principles are comprised of 10 Principles that were informed by, but go further than, the 10 Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The National Principles are:

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

Child Protection

The School has in place policies, procedures, practices and strategies for the prevention of grooming and child abuse, informed by authoritative and context appropriate child-safe organisation frameworks, approved by the Board, reviewed annually and updated in light of experience and relevant research. The school's child protection policies include, but are not limited to:

- Clear information as to what constitutes grooming and child abuse and associated key risk indicators;
- Clear procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of grooming and child abuse;
- Strategies to support, encourage and enable staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and students to understand, identify, discuss and report child protection concerns;
- Robust human resources policies and procedures, recruitment and screening practices for staff and volunteers;

- Pastoral care strategies designed to empower students and keep them safe;
- Policies with respect to equity, diversity and students with disabilities;
- A developmentally appropriate Protective Behaviours Curriculum;
- Information regarding the steps to take after a disclosure of abuse and grooming to protect, support and assist children;
- Guidelines with respect to record keeping and confidentiality;
- Provision of information to parents/guardians about the protective behaviours curriculum, the staff code of conduct and when, how and who to tell when they have concerns;
- A system for continuous improvement and review; and
- Arrangement of the premises and facilities to deter inappropriate interactions and facilitate detection.

Responsibilities

Child Protection is everyone's responsibility. At Pioneer Village School, all members of the Board, staff and volunteers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.

All staff are required to be familiar with the content of PVS child protection policies and their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of child abuse and grooming. It is each individual's responsibility to be aware of key risk indicators of child abuse and grooming, to be observant, and to raise any concerns they may have relating to child abuse and grooming with the Principal.

Reporting Concerns

If there is a concern that a child may be subject to abuse or grooming this must be reported to the principal. Communications will be treated with utmost confidentiality on a *need to know basis*.

Implementation

This policy will be implemented through:

- Annual Review of Charter of Commitment to Child Safety
- Annual training for all staff on Child Abuse
- Annual training on detection and reporting of grooming behaviours
- Staff Induction
- Review of other policies as required by legislation or changes to Registration Standards

Review

Pioneer Village School will conduct an annual review of its child safe policies and procedures in line with WA Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools

ADDITIONAL REFERNCES

- [Appendix A Practical guidance for implementing the Child Safe Standards](#)

- https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/child_protection_framework.pdf
- <https://www.cyp.wa.gov.au/media/2154/child-safe-organsiations-wa-guidelines.pdf>
- [Volume 6, Making Institutions child safe, Royal Commission into Institution Response to Child Sexual Abuse
https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/final_report_-_volume_6_making_institutions_child_safe.pdf](https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/final_report_-_volume_6_making_institutions_child_safe.pdf)

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