

Standard Six **Child Safe**

Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse (Child Safe Standard 6)

Echuca Primary School will use a risk management approach by identifying and considering their child safety risk(s) based on a range of factors including the nature of our activities with children, physical and online environments and the characteristics of children to whom they provide services. This covers both 'business as usual' risks and risks posed by specific activities such as excursions and overnight trips. Where risks are identified, measures to reduce or remove them.

Echuca Primary School ensures the safety of all children including the safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders children; children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and the safety of children with a disability. This is in line with the child safe standards.

Rationale:

In addition to their professional obligations, principals and teachers have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to protect students in their charge from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable.

Implementation:

The schools general duty is to take reasonable steps to protect students from reasonably foreseeable risks of injury. The requirements of the duty involve adequate supervision in the school, on school activities as well as providing safe and suitable buildings, grounds and equipment.

The teacher's duty of care is greater than that of the ordinary citizen in that a teacher is obliged to protect a student from reasonably foreseeable harm or to assist an injured student while the ordinary citizen does not have a legal obligation to respond.

Staff members are also cautioned against giving advice on matters that they are not professionally competent to give (negligent advice). Advice is to be limited to areas within a teacher's own professional competence and given in situations arising from a role (leader of an area, unit etc.) specified for them by the principal.

Teachers must ensure that the advice they give is correct and where appropriate in line with the most recent available statements from institutions employers. Teachers should not give advice in areas outside those related to their role where they may lack expertise.

Risks to students outside the school environment

The important issue in all cases will be whether the school took reasonable steps to protect the student from the risk.

Risk outside the school environment may sometimes call for immediate and positive steps by a school depending on the age of students, urgency and threat of injury.

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All staff must follow DET guidelines when organizing an excursion, incursion or camp. All procedural steps contained in the school camping, excursions and incursions policy and procedure outlines must also be followed.

All staff will be informed of their legal requirement via:

- A copy of this document will be provided to each member of staff at the commencement of the school year and will be available on the school server
- New staff will be informed of their Duty of Care as part of the school's Induction program
- Staff will be directed to familiarise themselves with the section Student Safety on the Victorian Government School's Policy Advisory Guide
- Staff will complete a risk assessment including duty of care when completing planning for camps, excursion and incursions
- Staff will be directed to the student wellbeing policy annually

Risk Assessment Guidelines

As part of normal practice Echuca Primary school will complete a risk assessment including duty of care when planning for camps and excursions and incursions.

1. Identify the school's child safety risks.

- What are the areas of concern or hot spots?
- What could go wrong?

2. Identify any existing risk mitigation measures or internal controls.

- What strategies, practices, or procedures are in place to control the risk?
- Have they been fully implemented?
- Are staff, contractors, volunteers, parents and students aware of them?
- How effective are they?

3. Assess and rate the school's child safety risks given the existing controls in place, taking into account the likelihood of risk, and the likely consequence of the risk.

- What are the consequences?
- What is the likelihood of those consequences?

4. If the risk rating is more than the '*acceptable level*', identify further risk management strategies through additional controls or other prevention, detection or mitigation strategies and then re- assess the risk.

- What is the '*acceptable level*' of risk? For child safety, there should be little or no tolerance of risk.
- What strategies, practices, or procedures could be put in place to control or manage the risk?

5. The risk management process should be documented, recorded and reviewed periodically. Effective risk management strategies are dynamic and change over time as new risks arise and others may no longer be relevant.

Evaluation:

Child Safe Standards 6 (Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse) was endorsed by School Council on: **29/04/ 2019**

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