



# Child Safety Standards

## Child Empowerment

### Rationale:

Children have the right to give their views and opinions about decisions that affect them and to be listened to. Empowerment is about helping children to have their say. Children are more likely to speak up about their concerns about feeling unsafe, or make a complaint, if they feel their views are valued and welcomed.

### Implementation:

Ripplebrook Primary School will develop strategies to deliver appropriate education about:

- standards of behaviour for students attending the school;
- healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality);
- resilience; and
- child abuse awareness and prevention.

Ripplebrook Primary School will promote the Child Safe Standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.

Ripplebrook Primary School delivers appropriate education about **Standards of Behaviour** by:

- implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour framework across the school
- ensuring clear expectations for appropriate and inappropriate behavior are monitored using the schools “Standards of Behaviour and Expectations” matrix
- having an up to date Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy
- involving students in decision making through the Junior School Council

Ripplebrook Primary School delivers appropriate education about **Healthy and Respectful Relationships** by

- explicit teaching of respectful behaviours and appropriate social skills in SWPBS lessons
- implementing “Catching on Early” health and sexuality education program in Years 5 and 6
- implementing a comprehensive Health and Physical Education program

- promoting mental health and wellbeing through the use of appropriate resources in classroom
- involving students in decision making through the Junior School Council

The school has trialled *Respectful Relationships* resources within several grades during 2018 with a view to full implementation in 2019.

Ripplebrook Primary School delivers appropriate education about **Resilience** by

- promoting, modeling, teaching, acknowledging and celebrating resilience through SWPBS lessons.

Ripplebrook Primary School delivers appropriate education about **Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention** by

- implementing “Catching on Early” health and sexuality education program in Years 5/6
- relevant information for parents and community published in the school newsletter
- holding parent information sessions on a needs basis when appropriate
- displaying and discussing the **Protect** posters in various places around the school
- Child Safe Standards information available on the school website

## REFERENCES:

- [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx)
- [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies,-guidelines-and-legislation/child-safe-standards](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies,-guidelines-and-legislation/child-safe-standards)
- [www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes/Pages/standards.html](http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes/Pages/standards.html)

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Due for review: in MARCH 2020** (unless required to change earlier due to legislation)