

WARRAGUL REGIONAL COLLEGE

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

(Including Statement Of Commitment)



November 2016

COLLEGE VALUES

Warragul Regional College has four core values: Community: We take care of each other, Achievement: We strive for excellence, Respect: We respect people and property and Effort: We work hard. We expect all members of our learning community to demonstrate these values everywhere and all of the time.

The College is a leading school in this state in implementing a safe collaborative and inclusive environment with student having a strong sense of belonging, identity, self-worth and voice. Underpinning this commitment is School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) and membership of the Safe School's Coalition. These initiatives promote health, wellbeing and social inclusion for every member of the Warragul Regional College community.

Warragul Regional College has a zero tolerance for child abuse.

Purpose

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.

Rationale

Warragul Regional College is 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.

Statement of Commitment

Every person involved in Warragul Regional College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he or 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.

Implementation:

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Warragul Regional College will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety.
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives.
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children.
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount.
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children.
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development.

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7. 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.
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities.
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk.
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.