

Ballarat Christian College

Child Safe Strategy

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Ballarat Christian College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. Wherever it is at risk, child safety will be the primary focus of our care and decision making. Ballarat Christian College has zero tolerance for child abuse and neglect.

Ballarat Christian 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. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in and with Ballarat Christian College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/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.¹

Child Safe Standards

In 2016 the Victorian Government generated these 7 Child Safety Standards to ensure all schools were implementing the best possible practice towards child safe environments. These include:

- Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
- Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
- Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

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Our Strategies

In order to ensure that Ballarat Christian College provides a child safe environment which produces the safest environment for our children, we have developed a culture throughout all aspects of our College to reinforce this priority.

Ballarat Christian College have/will;

- Create a Risk Management Committee of the Board that will monitor and evaluate child safety within the College and provide direction to all staff in issues relating to child safety.
- Created a new role, Child Safety Officer.
- Developed a Child Safety Policy that forms the foundations of Ballarat Christian College's policies, procedures and practices in relation to child safety.
- Updated Codes of Conduct for staff and students that outlines specifically expected behaviours of all that are associated with the Colleges environment and activities which makes reference to the following people; employees, staff, volunteers, visitors, onsite contractors and students.
- Reviewed current policies and procedures related to child safety and updated as required
- Updated the College's website to include new information on child safety.
- Reviewed current Human Resources policies and procedures to include specific references to Child Safety, including the addition of the Child Safe Standards into the induction process
- Updated all position descriptions in relation to child safety.
- Developed a Risk Register which includes a process for identification, assessment and mitigation of risk to child safety.
- Reviewed current approaches to educate students on child abuse and create a greater awareness.
- Engaged ChildWise as consultants and as the accreditation body.
- Regular communication strategies for parents, students and the wider school community to develop a zero tolerance on child abuse and a child safe culture within the College.²

² Acknowledgement – Waverley Christian College