



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Policy

Introduction

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

Prevention is in the best interests and safety of our children and is our first priority.

Prevention occurs when a child ceases to become a victim – when the child uses their skills to avoid being harmed.

It occurs when

- Children have received personal safety education.
- adults are aware and believe the disclosures of children and respond appropriately.
- Schools, Parents and the Community change the way they deal with child sexual assault.

Purpose

Ensure

- All children receive effective personal safety education providing awareness and support:
 - from bullying
 - from child abuse
 - from sexual assault
 - by responding to abuse, neglect or sexual assault
- School Staff are familiar with:
 - child safe standards
 - mandatory reporting requirements
 - School policy and code of conduct
 - police protocols
- Access to:
 - student support services
 - suicide awareness programs
 - support units and agencies
- Build Resilience in Children
- Support for connected families



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Rational

Objectives include:

- Create and maintain a child safe school environment
- Personal Safety Child Protection Education and Training
- Build child protection culture and promote awareness
- Achieve best-practice, child-safe environment.
- Work in collaboration with services within the community to identify and intervene early with children and young people who have additional needs or are at risk
- Develop the capacity of the workforce within schools to meet the needs of children who have additional needs, or are disadvantaged or vulnerable, to enable them to achieve successful education and wellbeing outcomes
- Respond to critical incidents involving students, staff and school communities
- Facilitate and strengthen partnerships between and the SSS service in schools, early childhood services, community organisations, and health, family, child, mental health and youth services in order to provide greater options and coordinated service provision for children, young people and their families.

Education and Training

It is the responsibility for any organisation that has a duty of care to children and young people, to prioritise regular child protection learning for staff and volunteers. In addition to this, promotion of personal safety messages for children and young people is vital. This also extends to parents/carers and families who are part of your organisation's wider community.

At Yea Primary School Bravehearts has been engaged to deliver child protection training and education programs FOR our students

Bravehearts is the leader in personal safety education in Australia, offering a range of programs targeted at children from foundation early years right through to upper Primary. The programs are professionally developed according to the learning needs of each specific age group and are highly trusted and acclaimed by teachers and parents nationwide.

Education Programs

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR EARLY YEARS – LOWER PRIMARY STUDENTS

Children are the most vulnerable members of society therefore it is never too early to begin sowing the seeds of personal safety. Children can begin learning valuable lessons to help keep them safe from as young as 2-3 years old.



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Providing age appropriate information around body ownership and a right to be safe from an early age allows for these messages to become part of the child's everyday language and helps to build self-esteem and resilience in children.

Parents and carers play a vital role in this process as first educators of children in their care. Once children commence formalised care arrangements and/or school, a positive partnership between both school and home is then important to reinforce key personal safety messages in a clear, consistent manner to eliminate confusion for children and encourage a shared language that is easy for young children to understand, remember and use.

The five basic principles we need to teach children (between the ages of 3-8) are:

- To trust their feelings and to distinguish between 'yes' and 'no' feelings
- To say 'no' to adults if they feel unsafe or unsure
- That they own their bodies
- That nothing is so yucky that they can't tell someone about it
- That if they feel unsafe or unsure to run and tell someone they trust

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR MIDDLE – UPPER PRIMARY STUDENTS

Students in the middle to upper primary school years are navigating new and exciting challenges in terms of interpersonal relationships, social responsibility and emerging independence.

Bravehearts' offers two professionally developed programs, designed specifically for supporting the learning of children in this age group about personal safety;

CyberEcho teaches students key strategies about staying safe online, covering everything from social networking through to protecting personal information and how to create a positive digital footprint.

Ditto's Deputies is a peer-support program, developed in response to feedback from schools that had engaged with Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show and were seeking an equally effective program for older students.

Resources / References

Yea Primary School Child Protection Reporting Policy

Yea Primary School Child Safe Policy and Statement of Commitment

Yea Primary School Code of Conduct

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies%2c-guidelines-and-legislation/child-safe-standards-resources>



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Education and Training Reform Amendment (Child Safe Schools) Act 2015

Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority: Child safe standards

www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe

Ministerial Order No. 870: meeting the child safe standards

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/documents/Min%20Order%20870%20Child%20Safe%20Standards.pdf>

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/resources.aspx>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx>

www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/childsafestandards

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/dutyofcare.aspx>

Email: child.safe.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Drafted by	Fiona Joseph	Approved by School Council on	18/9/2017
Responsible person	Debbie George	Date Implemented	2017
School Council President	<<sign>>	Scheduled review date	2021
Principle	<<sign>>	Review cycle <<Circle>>	Every 4 years