



'Quality Education in a Friendly, Caring and Supportive Environment'

Approved by school Council in July 2021

Child Safety Policy – Student Version

Why is child safety important in our school?

At Bridgewater PS, everyone in our community has the right to feel safe. The Child Safe Standards were brought in by our government to help children feel safe. Our whole school community should understand that when we talk about child protection and safety - it means that we make sure that people working at our school – as well as visitors, plan, think and act with this in mind.

School Vision for safety and learning

- Bridgewater PS aims to create a learning place where you feel safe.
- We want you to take responsibility for your own learning.
- We want you to have a chance to learn at a level that is right for you and to try activities that you are interested in.
- We know that everyone learns in different ways and we always try to make sure that you are given a chance to achieve your best.

Why do we have a policy?

A policy is like a promise that explains how we will deal with something. This policy has been written to help you to understand that our school has a responsibility to protect you and keep you safe.

What are the important ideas that guide what we do at our school?

- Everyone has a right to be safe – if you are hurt by someone else in any way, it is not ok.
- You will be taught what being safe looks like, feels like and sounds like.
- You can help to keep other students at school stay safe by asking for help when it is needed.
- Some students who speak different languages or practice different cultures may come to our school - we will make sure that everyone feels included.
- Every year we make a promise on our National Day against Bullying to look out for our friends and other students at our school.
- All teachers and people working at our school must look after you, protect you and care for your wellbeing.
- At Bridgewater PS we work with your parents or whoever takes care of you to help give you the best education possible.
- If you are worried about your safety, we will help you but also respect your privacy.

- Mrs Ladd will always make sure that the people who work at our school know how to help you if you ever feel unsafe.
- We will always keep conversations private if we have to talk about your safety.
- Sometimes we have to get other people involved if we think you are in danger – this might be the police or Child Protection.

What promises do we make to our school community?

We promise to always protect you and put your safety first.

Why do we have a Code of Conduct for adults working in our school?

We have a code of conduct in our school that explains what is, and what is not acceptable behaviour. This can be found at the front counter in the office and has been created to protect everyone in our school community.

How do we teach you about safety and make sure that you get to have a say?

You will have regular discussions in your classroom about safety, learn about respectful relationships, and be given opportunities to talk about what being safe means. We will listen to any concerns or questions you may have.

How do you tell us if you feel unsafe or worried and how should teachers respond?

If you feel unsafe, have a worry or a concern, we are here to listen. You can come and see Mrs Ladd in the office or you can speak to another teacher. If we think you are in danger we will have to ask other people to help us, this might include the police or Child Protection.

How are staff selected to work in our school?

We have special rules that we follow when we are employing adults to come and work at our school. Everyone who works at Bridgewater PS must understand how to keep all students safe.

How does our school help teachers and other staff to understand the rules about child safety?

We talk about child safety at our meetings and we write policies (kind of like this one) to remind adults about what they have to do if they think a child is in danger. Sometimes we have to ring Child Protection to tell them if we are really worried about someone. The training that the teachers do every year teaches them how to do that.

How do we know if a child is unsafe, who is involved and what will happen?

Sometimes students tell us about their worries and we can sort it out by helping in different ways. We all have worries and not all of them mean that we are unsafe. If we think you are in danger we have to call Child Protection. The people who work for Child Protection make sure that children are safe and they have different ways of making sure that this will happen. If that ever happens, two people will come to our school to have a talk to you and help you. Mrs Ladd will always come in as well to make sure that you feel comfortable.

Remember - if you have a worry, make sure you talk to someone. We are all here to help you and lots of problems can be sorted out really easily!