



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

CHILD SAFE POLICY

Bridgewater On-Loddon Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone working at the school is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.

Child protection is a shared responsibility between the Bridgewater On-Loddon Primary School, all employees, workers, contractors, associates, and members of the school community.

Bridgewater On-Loddon Primary School will consider the opinions of children and use their opinions to develop child protection policies.

Bridgewater On-Loddon Primary School supports and respects all children, staff and volunteers. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of all of our parents, carers and volunteers to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices we have developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Commitment to child safety

All children who come to Bridgewater Primary School Playgroup have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children attending our playgroup will always be our first priority and we have a zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun. This policy was developed in collaboration with the parents, carers and volunteers who are involved in our playgroup.

Children's rights to safety and participation

We will encourage children to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We teach children about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

Valuing diversity

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices and welcome families and children from all backgrounds and with all abilities to our playgroup. To achieve this we:

- will actively promote and support the participation of children with a disability and their families
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families

Volunteers at playgroup

For the purpose of this policy, volunteers are defined as people who attend our playgroup without any children of their own in their care, with the intention of undertaking voluntary community support.

Bridgewater Primary School Playgroup values the support of local community volunteers and applies the best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of volunteers. All volunteers must undergo a comprehensive screening process, including an interview and referee check and hold a current Working with Children Check. (You may wish to include the details of a local or state volunteering organisation that you may use to source volunteers.)

Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements will be included in all advertisements and we have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our volunteers on the expectations of our playgroup community and our commitment to child safety. (You may wish to include a link to the code of conduct.)

Visitors to playgroup Extended family and friends of playgroup families are welcome to visit our playgroup with the child. Any children's entertainer engaged to entertain at the playgroup must hold a current WWC. Other visitors, such as local family support professionals or services must make a request to visit the playgroup ahead of time and when at playgroup, must not be left alone with children at any time. Contractors that need to visit the playgroup venue for repairs/maintenance will be booked to attend outside of normal playgroup session times or if this is not possible, they must not be left alone with children at any time.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint Julie Ladd (Principal at Bridgewater Primary School) has been appointed as the Child Safety Officer, with the specific responsibility for responding to any child safety concerns or complaints made by parents, carers or volunteers.

Reviewing this policy This policy will be reviewed every year and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from parents, carers, and volunteers.

Reviewed by School Council in July 2021 and due for renewal in 2023