



COMMITMENT STATEMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

A safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people

Huntingtower is committed to child safety. The School is committed to ensuring that all those engaged at Huntingtower promote the inherent dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe school environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including aboriginal children, from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

Huntingtower has a moral and legal responsibility to create a nurturing school environment where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe. We encourage children and young people to express their views and make suggestions especially on matters that directly affect them. The School will work to ensure there is a clear awareness of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Huntingtower will take prompt action on any concerns a child or young person may have and appropriately refer and investigate. Huntingtower will strive for continual improvement that is responsive to emerging thinking, evidence and practice, so as to eliminate the possibility of inappropriate behaviour occurring in the first place.

Creating a child-safe school environment is a process that involves active participation and responsibility by the school, families, volunteers and their community. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures, curriculum and practices.

Every person involved at Huntingtower 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.

In order to fulfil our obligations to the protection of children and young people, Huntingtower makes the following commitments:

The importance of upholding safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention 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.

To create and maintain a safe and nurturing culture, actively and continually developing and reviewing all policies, processes and practices, informed by development and evidence.

Engaging families, children, young people, staff and volunteers to have a voice and raise concerns.

Huntingtower, in partnership with families, will ensure children and young people, are engaged and active participants in the processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety.

This means that the views of staff, children, young people and families are taken seriously and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children and young people are also provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

Implementing effective risk-management and employment practices.

Huntingtower will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm. Effective risk management will be embedded in school life through effective, transparent and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

Huntingtower is committed to using best practice standards in the recruitment of highly competent and professional staff who are shaped and challenged to maintain the safety of all students. The high-quality of staff appointments will be upheld through employment and staff review processes and practices.

Compliance and Monitoring

At all times Huntingtower will stay up to date on current legislation and will meet these legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in their care, including the Victorian Child Safe Standards (Victorian Government 2016), mandatory reporting, grooming, failure to disclose and failure to protect requirements.

Communication

This Commitment to Child Safety will be available to staff on the School Intranet and to parents and students via the parent portal. In addition, relevant aspects will be raised with students at meetings, highlighted in Bulletins and newsletters and discussed at Staff meetings.