



Strategies to Embed Child Safety

1. INTRODUCTION

Shepparton Christian College is committed to child safety. All children at Shepparton Christian College should be safe, happy and empowered in regards to their own safety. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. Shepparton Christian College is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

2. Aims:

This document seeks to set out the strategies that are used at Shepparton Christian College to embed a culture of child safety in the College.

3. Background:

Child Safety is of the utmost importance at Shepparton Christian College.

This policy was created in response to Ministerial Order 870 mandates that all school meet particular standards in relation to child safety. These standards were developed by the government in response the Betrayal of Trust inquiry and the current Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

4. Strategies:

Strategies to embed child safety into the Culture of Shepparton Christian College are important. In all things we seek to honour God and our young people. Below are some of the strategies used.

- Behaviour management policy that clearly articulates expectations on student behaviour.
- Anti-bully policy and practices that seek to empower our young people to be positive role models to both peers and other students of all ages.
- Leadership program, with a focus on the Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Positive relationship development is facilitated through the Focus on the Family program “No Apologies” that seeks to develop respectful and God honouring relationships in the teenage years (Years 7-10).

- Health programs across years Prep to 10 that teach about healthy relationships as well as resilience.
- Ditto is a program that teaches younger children (Prep-grade 2) about personal boundaries with others, including both students and adults. This program is run at least once every two years.
- There is both a Chaplain and student counsellor on staff to assist and advise students when life is difficult.
- Staff induction program that includes introduction to the child safe policy and practices at Shepparton Christian College
- Annual staff training in regards to child safety practices and reporting obligations

5. Responsibilities

The College Board has responsibility for oversight of the College Policies in relation to Child Safety as well as ensuring that the College Executive are implementing these policies.

The Principal, along with the Leadership Team (Assistant Principal, Secondary Coordinator, Primary Coordinator, Business Manager and Office Manager) are responsible for the implementation of College Policies that have been approved and authorised by the College Board. The Principal and Leadership Team are responsible for working with the Staff, students and families to ensure that strategies and policies are implemented and working well.

The Staff (including teachers, support staff, admin staff and ancillary staff) are responsible for ensuring that they are active in the implementation of College Policies as required by the Principal and Leadership Team.

All members of the College community (staff, students, parents/carers) are encouraged to report suspicions of possible child abuse to both authorities such as the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) and Victoria Police as well as the management of Shepparton Christian College.

6. Review

This document will be reviews along with Child Safe Policy on a three year cycle or after major incidents.

NOTE: these child safe strategies were last reviewed and accepted by the College Board

– September 2021