



Child Safety Policy – Student version

Policy Category: Child Safety

Status: Board approved

At Sunshine Christian School, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our School.

Child Safety Policy – Student Version

Keeping you safe

Our School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. All members of the School – including teachers, staff, volunteers, parents, families and students – have a role to play to ensure that children and young people are safe.

Children and young people have a right to feel safe: at home, at school and anywhere else they go. Our school works hard to keep children and young people safe.

Everyone in the school is responsible to protect children and young people from harm. Children and young people at our school do not need to feel worried or scared that something bad will happen to them. The school has a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy to help us make safe choices about what happens in the school.

Your safety

All students and young people at our School have the right to feel safe. The school does not accept bullying or any kind of unsafe behaviour.

Safety means that children and young people are free from physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and the effects of family violence.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at your school or anywhere else in the community.

Our school has many ways to keep you from harm.

Ask for help



If you feel unsafe or believe you have been abused, you can tell any adult at the School.

Mr Pietsch, Ms Clarke and Mr Pelton are our child safety officers. You could speak to them or another staff member.

Our teachers are committed to keeping children safe. This means that you should feel safe and not worried or scared that something bad will happen if you do ask for help. Our staff know what to do if you do ask for help or say that you feel unsafe.

At our school, there are 3 Child Safety Officers who help to make our school a safe place. If you ever have a concern about your safety or the safety of other children or young people, Mr Pietsch, Ms Clarke and Mr Pelton are there to help.

All students can speak up if they feel unsafe, or worried for another student and their safety. They should feel comfortable to speak with a teacher or staff member they trust if they feel unsafe or if they need help. They can trust that adults will listen to them. If a student talks about something that is making them feel unsafe, the information will only be shared with people who can support and protect them.

All adults working at the School have a responsibility to protect any child under their care. They will be able to help you.

- the adult will listen to your concerns and find a way to help you.
- the information will not be shared with the person who is making you feel unsafe.
- information will only be shared with people who can support and protect you.
- in some cases, the people helping you have to tell the police, the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection services and/or your family to prevent any further abuse, or risk of abuse.

Help others



If you think someone else has been abused or is unsafe you should talk to any adult at the School or an adult, you trust. Help your friends or any other young person by encouraging them to tell a trusted adult. Even if they specifically ask you not to tell an adult, you should still speak up. It is more important to make sure that a young person is helped and feels protected.

If there are times when an adult has been unsafe with you or with another child, you can tell a teacher or any adult at our school. They will know what to do to help. You should always tell a staff member you trust if you think there is a risk. It is important that the child at risk is helped and feels safe.

Extra support and help

Our School values differences. Sometimes, students will need special support to keep them safe and make sure they feel cared for. We respect, help, and care for ALL students including:

- Students with different backgrounds
- Students that are different shapes and sizes
- Students with different beliefs
- Students that like different things
- Students of all ages
- Students with different abilities
- Students have different ways of learning
- Students with different personalities and interests
- Students of all genders
- Students of all sexual orientations

Keeping you safe

Our School knows that it is important to keep checking that our school is safe. The school looks out for problems or things that might be unsafe and then, if there are problems, they try to fix them as soon as they can. We should always tell someone if we see a risk.

- Our School knows that it is important that we talk about safety with students, teachers and parents. We want to make sure that all students are able to:
 - keep themselves safe
 - keep others safe
 - recognise when something is dangerous
 - know what to do when they see a risk



We have a Code of Conduct that explains the behaviour that everyone in the school needs to show. The Code of Conduct is available on the School website. There are rules for adults as well as children.

There is a Code of Conduct for:

- all teachers
- all adults working at the school
- the School Board Directors
- pastors
- emergency teachers
- parent helpers
- volunteers

Student participation

This policy was written with our Year 3-6 Student Representative Council. Our school actively encourages all students to express their views and to be comfortable to give their voice to things that are important to them.

The School encourages student voice on child safety. Students can provide feedback to the School through student surveys, through Student Council or by speaking directly to your teacher, Chaplain, Wellbeing Coordinators or the Principal.

Students with concerns or ideas around child safety are encouraged to speak up.



Student complaints



You can raise complaints or concerns to your teacher, our staff or a child safety officer. You can also send them confidentially to our principal@scs.vic.edu.au address where this will be received, and you can stay anonymous.

We will look into your complaint or concern as soon as we receive it, and we will make sure that it is fully investigated to understand the problem and ensure we can keep you

safe or look into the problem you are raising to us further. Depending on the type of complaint or concern we may need to discuss it with you further, but it will be with someone that you are comfortable to do this with. We can also let you and/or the student body know what we did with your complaint.

Further Information

If you would like further information about the way the School manages its policy management framework, the first point of contact is with the Principal.

Policy Control & Approval Information

Policy Category	Policy Risk Rating	Approver	Date Approved	Next Review
Child Safety	High	Board	26/03/2025	03/2027