MACS CARE

Parent/Carer Newsletter 10

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Working together for Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 10

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven, and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every student entrusted to our care.

We are dedicated to keeping children safe by continuously assessing and enhancing our practices. Staff and volunteers receive ongoing guidance and training, and our procedures are regularly reviewed to identify improvements, address emerging risks, and strengthen our response to potential harm.

Policies, procedures, and professional learning are not static; they are regularly evaluated and refined to ensure all staff and volunteers can act effectively in their child-safe roles. By embedding a cycle of review and improvement across school life, we create a culture where children are listened to, supported, and safeguarded in every setting.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they help keep children and young people safe, and how schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are prioritising and achieving this.

Overview of the Child Safe Standards:

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must adhere to.

These standards are designed to:

- Promote the participation and empowerment of children, young people and their families
- Prevent harm and abuse of children and young people
- Ensure child safety is a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

***Child Safe Standard 10** emphasises the importance of continually improving and embedding child safe practices within organisations. This aligns with Galatians 6:9, which reminds us, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Keeping children safe requires ongoing commitment from all staff and members of the community; continuously reflecting on practice, learning from experiences, and making improvements where needed. Even when progress seems slow or challenges arise, perseverance ensures that children are consistently supported, protected, and able to thrive in environments where safety is a shared and enduring priority.*

Why is it importantthat the workour schooldoes in child safety is regularly reviewed and improved?

Regularly reviewing and improving our school's child safety practices is essential because children's needs, risks, and the environments they grow up in change over time. By continuously evaluating what we do well and where we can strengthen our approach, we make sure our policies, staff training, and everyday practices remain effective, up to date, and responsive. Ongoing improvement also shows our community that we take Child Safe Standard 10 seriously, that we are committed to transparency, accountability, and creating a school where every child is protected, supported, and able to thrive.

Reviewed: May 2026

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 10

"Policies and procedures relating to child safety and wellbeing are regularly reviewed and improved."

Child Safe Standard 10 reminds us that child safety is never static. By regularly reviewing our approaches, we ensure they remain effective, inclusive, and aligned with best practice. Continuous improvement helps our staff adapt to new challenges, refine prevention strategies, and strengthen the protective environment we provide. When we commit to learning and evolving, children feel safer, families feel informed, and our entire community is confident that safety is always at the centre of what we do.

What does this look like?

- **Regular evaluation of policies and processes**: We routinely review our child safety documentation to ensure it meets current standards, reflects community feedback, and aligns with updated legislation and best practice.
- **Listening to children, families, and staff**: We seek feedback about what is working well and where improvements can be made, ensuring child and family voices shape decision making.
- **Monitoringincidents and responses**: We analyse concerns, complaints, and patterns of behaviour to identify areas where safeguards can be strengthened.
- **Updating practices based on learning**: When reviews highlight gaps or opportunities, we make changes, whether through updated procedures, improved communication, or additional staff training.
- **Transparent reporting**: We communicate changes clearly to ensure our community understands how child safety strategies evolve over time.

HowParents,Carersand Guardianscanget involved:

Child Safe Standard 10 works best when schools and families collaborate to ensure continuous improvement in child safety. Families can help by:

- **Providing feedback**: Share your thoughts on what's working well and where our child safety practices could be strengthened.
- **Engaging in school initiatives**: Participate in surveys, forums, and information sessions that help shape improvements.
- **Encouraging open conversations at home**: Talk with your child about safety, wellbeing, and their experiences at school; share any learnings with us as your insights help
  us review and strengthen our approach.
- **Partnering with the school during updates**: Engage respectfully with new policies, procedures, or communication strategies that arise from our ongoing review process

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we support child safety, please contact your school directly. More information about the Child Safe Standards is available through the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP).

Check outtheseadditionalresourcesbelowto learn more

The Australian Human Rights Commission offers practical guides, resources and information on how to develop, review and maintain Child Safe Organisations: AHRC: Child Safe Organisation Resources

The Federal Government has a National Office for Child Safety; resources on training, education, and implementing child-safe practices under National Principles.can be found here:
National Office for Child Safety

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