

A Summary of: The Victorian Child Safety Standards

The Victorian Child Safety Standards comprise seven (7) Standards and three (3) Principles.

The seven (7) Standards are as follows:

Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements.

Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety.

Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.

Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.

Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.

Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.

Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

In addition to the seven (7) Standards, Timboon P-12 School is required to take into consideration the following three (3) Principles as part of our response to each Standard:

Principle 1: Promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children;

Principle 2: Promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds; and

Principle 3: Promoting the safety of children with a disability.

The Victorian Government has published a guide titled *An Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards*. In addition the Minister for Education has published Ministerial Order 870 that prescribes certain matters with which registered schools in Victoria must comply as part of their registration requirements.

Timboon P-12 School has established and implemented our Child Protection Program in accordance with The Victorian Child Safe Standards.

The table below sets out each Standard with an action plan summary of how we will comply with that Standard

	Description	Timboon P-12 School action plan to comply with this standard
1	Organisational culture of child safety, including thorough effective leadership arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of this Child Protection Program, our Child Protection and Safety Policy and Child Safety Code Of Conduct The appointment of a Principal class and leadership team members who are responsible for embedding an organisational culture of child protection in the school Each School Council member, staff member and Direct Contact Volunteer having to complete Child Protection Training which provides information with respect to key risk indicators of child abuse and reporting procedures Establishing clear guidelines for reporting child abuse concerns Creating an environment supportive of children from culturally diverse backgrounds and children with disabilities.
2	A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety.	Timboon P-12 School has developed and implemented a Child Protection and Safety Policy that describes the key elements of our approach to child protection as well as an overarching set of principles guiding the development of policies and procedures to protect children from child abuse.

	Description	Timboon P-12 School action plan to comply with this standard
		Our Child Protection and Safety Policy is published through various mediums including our public website.
3	A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.	Timboon P-12 School has created a Child Safety Code of Conduct which specifies appropriate standards of behaviour for adults towards students in all School environments, including outside of school hours.
4	Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.	Timboon P-12 School has created child safe human resources practices including those relating to: Recruitment, Selection & Screening, Working with Children Checks Register, Child Protection Training, Cultural Awareness of Child Protection Issues, and Mandatory Reporting training for all staff.
5	Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations suspected child abuse.	Timboon P-12 School has established simple and accessible procedures for anyone to report a child abuse concern internally to one of the Leadership team. The Four critical actions for schools document produced by PROTECT has been endorsed and adopted by the school. Refer: Mandatory Reporting Policy
6	Strategies to identify and reduce or remove the risk of abuse.	Timboon P-12 School has adopted a risk management approach to child safety. Key risk indicators of child abuse are documented in our Child Protection Program and also included in our Child Protection Training. The School has developed a number of strategies, policies and procedures to create a risk-based approach to child safety and protection. Refer to Child Protection Risk Management.
7	Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.	Timboon P-12 School is a KidsMatter school. Through this program we have developed strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children including policies and procedures related to age appropriate care and supporting children with disabilities and children from culturally diverse backgrounds.