



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Berwick College seeks to ensure all students are safe and personally grow in their academic and social learning.

Berwick College is committed to ensuring that every child feels safe in our school environment and the College has an absolute zero tolerance to any form of child abuse.

What is child abuse? Child abuse includes:

- sexual or grooming offences
- physical violence
- serious emotional or psychological harm
- serious neglect

Berwick College has legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously. All allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently in line with our child safety policies and procedures.

Berwick College fully supports the Child Safe Standards through a variety of programs including Learning Team Structure, Home Groups, our program for supporting students with a disability and our 2016 Victorian Excellence in Learning award finalists, the Wellbeing Team and our Indigenous program. We are committed to the safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability. Elements of Child Safety are also covered in our Health/PE curriculum and reflected in our screening and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.

Berwick College has specific policies, procedures and training in place that supports our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments. Berwick College is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks. We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks. The child safety standards are referenced in our school policy, 'Mandatory Reporting'.

For any concerns related to child safety, please speak to the Principal, Assistant Principals, Wellbeing Team, Chaplain, Student Learning Leaders, Home Group Teachers or in fact, any staff member in the College. Alternatively, you may contact the police or one of the organisations listed below.

Organisations providing support and advice

Child Wise <https://www.childwise.org.au/> Call on 1800 991 099; provides access to expert advice from trained counsellors and an opportunity to speak up about child abuse.

Kids Helpline <https://kidshelpline.com.au/> Call on 1800 55 1800. For any time and for any reason - free, private and confidential phone and online counselling, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Headspace (National Youth Mental Health Foundation) <http://headspace.org.au/> Call on 1800 650 890. Headspace can help if you are aged 12 or over and you are going through a tough time. You can talk to someone at Headspace on the phone, online or in person.

Victorian Centre Against Sexual Assault

<https://www.easternhealth.org.au/services/item/174-eastern-centre-against-sexual-assault-ecasa>

Call on 1800 806 292. The Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault provides services to child and adult victims/survivors of sexual assault. The assault may have occurred recently or in the past.

Create Foundation: <http://create.org.au/> Ph.1800 655 105. Creating a better life for children and young people in care

Youthlaw: <http://youthlaw.asn.au/> Call 9611 2412. Provides legal information and advice regarding access to legal service.