



BENTON JUNIOR COLLEGE

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Rationale

Benton Junior College is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

Aim

The child safe environments policy:

- sets out the school's approach to creating a child safe organisation where children and young people are safe and feel safe; and
- provides the policy framework for the school's approach to the Child Safe Standards.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all staff, volunteers, contractors and whether or not they work in direct contact with children or young people; and
- across a range of school forums (e.g. camps, online) and outside of school hours.

Implementation

Policies and procedures outlining school's approach to the Child Safe Standards are outlined below:

- The school's culture encourages staff to raise, discuss and scrutinise concerns making it more difficult for abuse to occur and remain hidden.
- The school's policies for creating a child safe culture can be found on the website at <https://www.bentonjuniorcollege.com/> and listed on COMPASS <https://benton-vic.compass.education/>
- School leaders will ensure that each person understands their role, responsibilities and behaviour expected in protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect.
- The school's Code of Conduct sets out clear awareness of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour.
- The school applies best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. We will ensure that staff induction, education and training programs are a vital part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect. All prospective staff and volunteers are required to undergo National Criminal History Records check and maintain a valid Working with Children Check.
- The school has clear expectations for staff and volunteers in making a report about a child or young person who may be in need of protection. Immediate action should include reporting their concerns to the DHHS Child Protection or another appropriate agency and notifying the principal or a member of the school leadership team of their concerns and the reasons for those concerns. The school will take action to respond to a complaint. Refer to *BJC Mandatory Reporting policy*.
- The school has developed a safe, inclusive and supportive environment that involves and communicates with children and their parents/carers. We encourage child and parent/carer

involvement and engagement that informs safe school operations and builds the capability of children and parents/carers to understand their rights and their responsibilities.

- When the school is gathering information in relation to a complaint about alleged misconduct with, or abuse of, a child the school will listen to the complainant's account of things and take them seriously, check understanding and keep the child (or their parents/carers) informed about progress.
- This school collects, uses and discloses information about particular children and their families in accordance with Victorian privacy law.
- To ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed in the context of school self-evaluation undertaken as part of the school accountability framework. The review will include input from students, parents/carers and the school community.

Related links/policies:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/childprotection/Pages/default.aspx>

BJC Child Safe Code of Conduct policy

BJC Mandatory Reporting policy

BJC Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy

BJC Child Safe policy

BJC Duty of Care policy

BJC Inclusion and Diversity Policy

Review Period

This policy was last updated July 2018 and will be reviewed July 2019.