

Child Safe Policy

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Policy Owner	SASY
Policy Authoriser	Board

POLICY

Specialised Assistance School for Youth (SASY) has developed the following Child Safe Policy as an overarching document that provides key elements of our approach to protecting children from abuse, grooming and neglect.

This Policy forms the foundation of the school's policy framework, procedures, and practices, and ultimately the school's culture with respect to child safety. It is designed to be SASY's public statement of commitment to child safety and a demonstration of the school 's leaders' commitment to champion child safety in the school.

The school's Child Safe Policy has been approved and endorsed by the school's Board.

The Policy is reviewed at least annually, taking into consideration experience, the effectiveness of procedures and the publication of relevant research.

This Policy is published on our public website, as well as communicated through other mediums such as newsletters, our parent handbook and in induction and welcome packs for members of the school Board, staff, Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, and External Providers.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

This Policy provides the framework for:

- The development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection within the school.
- The creation of a positive and robust child protection culture.
- The promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the school.
- Complying with all laws, regulations, and standards relevant to child protection in South Australia.

This Policy has been developed in accordance with Principle 2 of the Child Safe Environments Principles of Good Practice.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

SASY is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people at the school. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is always maintained. We also support the rights and wellbeing of our staff and Volunteers and encourage their active participation in creating and maintaining a child safe environment for all members of the school community.

OUR CHILD SAFE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

The school's commitment to child safety is based on the following overarching principles that guide the development and regular review of our work systems, practices, policies, and procedures to protect children from abuse, grooming and neglect.

1. All young people have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the young people are paramount.
3. The views of the young person and their privacy must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviours with young people are established in our Child Safe Code of Conduct and Staff and Protective Practice Policy.
5. The safety of young people is dependent upon the existence of a young persons' safe culture.
6. Young people's safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our school community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen Members of the Management Team, all staff, Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, and External Providers who have direct contact with young people.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all Board members, staff, Direct Contact Contractors, and Direct Contact Volunteers.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse, grooming or neglect are simple and accessible for all members of the school community.
11. Young People from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds have the right to special care and support including those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
12. Young People who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support.

OUR CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

SASY has developed procedures and standards to support our overarching Child Safe Policy, through our Child Protection Program.

Our Child Protection Program relates to all aspects of protecting young people from abuse, grooming and neglect and establishes work systems, practices, policies, and procedures to protect young people from abuse. It includes:

- Clear information as to what constitutes child abuse and associated key risk indicators.
- Clear procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of child abuse.
- Strategies to support, encourage and enable staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Providers, parents/guardians, and young people to understand, identify, discuss and report child protection matters.
- Procedures for recruiting and screening Board members, staff, Direct Contact Contractors, and Direct Contact Volunteers.
- Wellbeing strategies are designed to empower young people and keep them safe.
- Policies with respect to cultural diversity and young people with disabilities.
- A child protection training program.

- Information regarding the steps to take after a disclosure of abuse to protect, support and assist children.
- Guidelines with respect to record keeping and confidentiality.
- Policies to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, and standards (including the requirements for a child safe environment).
- A system for continuous improvement and review.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Child protection is everyone’s responsibility. At SASY all members of the Board and staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.

Specific responsibilities include:

SASY School Board

Each member of the Board is required to ensure that appropriate resources are made available to allow the School’s Child Safe Policy and the Child Protection Program to be effectively implemented within the school and is responsible for holding the CE and Senior management team accountable for effective implementation.

The Chief Executive (CE)

The CE is responsible, and will be accountable, for taking all practical measures to ensure that this Child Safe Policy and the School’s Child Protection Program are implemented effectively and that a strong and sustainable child protection culture is maintained within the school.

The School’s Child Protection Officers

A number of staff are nominated as the school’s Child Protection Officers. Our Child Protection Officers are the first point of contact for raising child protection concerns within the school. They are also responsible for championing child protection within the school and assisting in coordinating responses to child protection incidents.

SASY has also appointed **the Senior Youth Workers** as the school’s Senior Child Protection Officers. The Senior Child Protection Officer has an important role in the promotion and maintenance of a child safe environment at the school.

Staff Members

All staff are required to comply with our Child Protection Program and their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of child abuse. Each current and new staff member is required to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and acknowledged the school’s Child Safe Policy, Protective Practice Policy and Child Safe Code of Conduct.

It is each individual’s responsibility to be aware of key risk indicators of child abuse, to be observant, and to raise any concerns, they may have relating to child abuse with one of the school’s Child Protection Officers.

Staff, as a condition of employment at the school, must adhere to the school’s Child Safe Code of Conduct and Staff and Professional Practice Policy.

Direct Contact Volunteers

All Direct Contact Volunteers, as defined in this Policy, are required to comply with our Child Protection Program and their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of child abuse.

Each Direct Contact Volunteer is required to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and acknowledged the school's Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Code of Conduct.

It is each individual's responsibility to be aware of key risk indicators of child abuse, to be observant, and to raise any concerns they may have relating to child abuse with one of the school's Child Protection Officers.

Indirect Contact Volunteers

Indirect Contact Volunteers are those volunteers who are involved in providing support and services while not directly assisting a specific group of young people.

All Indirect Contact Volunteers are responsible for contributing to the safety and protection of children in the school environment.

The school requires all Indirect Contact Volunteers to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and acknowledged the school's Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Code of Conduct.

Third Party Contractors

All Third-Party Contractors engaged by the school are responsible for contributing to the safety and protection of the young people in the school environment.

Third Party Contractors include, for example, building maintenance / personnel, consultants, casual teachers, tutors, carer, casual youth workers, casual admin, sports coaches, and school cleaners. This also includes peripatetic music teachers and other extra-curricular teachers and instructors who are engaged by young people and their families /carer / guardians directly, rather than the school, but have an agreement with the school to use the school's facilities.

All Third-Party Contractors engaged by the school are required to comply with our Child Protection Program and their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of child abuse, grooming and neglect.

Each Third-Party Contractor is required to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and acknowledged the school's Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Code of Conduct.

The school may include this requirement in the written agreement between it and the Third-Party Contractor.

External Education Providers

An External Education Provider is any organisation that the school has arranged to deliver a specified course of study or activity that is part of the curriculum to a young person enrolled at the school. The delivery of such a course may take place on school premises or elsewhere.

All External Education Providers engaged by the school are responsible for contributing to the safety and protection of children in the school environment.

All External Education providers engaged by the school are required to comply with our Child Protection Program and their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of child abuse, grooming and neglect. Each External Education Provider is required to have appropriate child protection policies and procedures within their organisation.

SASY may include this requirement in the written agreement between it and the External organisation.

REPORTING CONCERNS

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the school community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse, grooming or neglect and how to report child protection concerns. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse, grooming or neglect incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, Volunteers, young people, parents/guardians and other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse, grooming or neglect or at risk of significant harm and have queries about how to make a report are asked to contact the school's Senior Child Protection Officer, the **Senior Youth Workers** by phoning **(08) 82270823** or emailing **MLP@sasy.sa.edu.au**.

All communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know' basis and governed by our legal obligations.

Please be aware that consulting with a Child Protection Officer does not change any obligation you have under legislation to report to an external authority.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.

If you have any questions regarding the school's Child Safe Policy, and how it applies to you, please contact the Senior Child Protection Officer.

POLICY AND CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM REVIEW

SASY is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program. The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness, in response to a significant change at the school and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards. For more information, refer to the Continuous Review and Improvement section of this Program.