Policy: Child Safe Environment Policy

Date of Review: 31st Aug 2016
Responsible for review: Assistant Principal

Bright P-12 College Council Policy

Date Approved: Approving Authority: College Council

Associated Processes: Reference Guide: Associated Documents:

Purpose
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
All staff, volunteers, contractors and whether or not they work in direct contact with children or young people will adhere to this policy. This includes visitors on Sports Days and other such events, where parents from other schools will attend Bright P12 College (see Visitors in Schools Policy).

Statement of Commitment and Principles

Bright P12 College is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Bright P12 College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Bright P12 College is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Bright P12 College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In addition, the Statement of Commitment will be implemented;

In its planning, decision-making and operations Bright P12 College will

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;

3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;

4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;

5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;

6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;

7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;

8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;

9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and

10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.