Rationale:

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the whole school community of Tungamah Primary School, leaders, staff, volunteers, students, their families, to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and procedures developed to keep everyone safe from harm, including all forms of abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety:

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation:

The staff and volunteers of Tungamah Primary School encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity and Inclusion:

We value and celebrate diversity, including cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families
• promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) and their families
• promote the personal safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability and make them feel welcome and part of all aspects of school life

Recruiting Staff and Volunteers:

Tungamah Primary School will apply the most thorough and rigorous standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all staff and volunteers and require police checks and Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for all staff and volunteers. Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements will be included in all advertisements for staff and volunteer positions.

Supporting Staff and Volunteers:

Tungamah Primary School provides support and supervision to all staff and volunteers so people feel valued, respected, affirmed in their work and fairly treated.

The Principal has been appointed as the Child Safety Officer with specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or students in relation to Child Safety.

Risk Management:

Risk management is an approach that minimises the potential for child abuse or harm to occur. Our Emergency Management Plan outlines and details all aspects of risk across our whole school environment (on site and off site school activities) with specific activity risk assessments. In addition to our general Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse and harm to our students.

Related Documentation:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other policies and procedures of Tungamah Primary School concerned with Child Safety and Pastoral Wellbeing:

• Tungamah Primary School WWCC Register Procedures
• Tungamah Primary School WWCC List
• Tungamah Primary School Duty of Care Policy
• Tungamah Primary School Excursions Policy
• Tungamah Primary School Incursions Policy
• Tungamah Primary School On Site Supervision Policy
• Tungamah Primary School Privacy Policy
• Tungamah Primary School Staff Registers Policy
• Tungamah Primary School Student Engagement and Well Being Policy
• Tungamah Primary School Visitors in School Policy
• VIT Legal Obligations of a Teacher
• VIT Teacher Code of Conduct
• Child Protection and Safety Policy
• Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting Policy
• Child Protection – Working With Children Checks Policy
• Child Protection – Failure to Disclose Policy
• Child Protection – Failure to Protect Policy
• Child Protection – Grooming Policy

References:

• Children, Youth and Families Act (Vic) 2005

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<tr>
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<td>Christine Purcell</td>
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<td>Approved By</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<td>Responsible for Review</td>
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