



# GMS Commitment to Child Safety 2020

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## Rationale

Gisborne Montessori School (GMS) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. All children have the right to feel safe and be safe.

Gisborne Montessori School is committed to embedding a culture where the safety, wellbeing, and participation of all children under our care are paramount. Particular attention is given to the needs of vulnerable children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with disability and mental health issues, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children who are unable to live at home, and those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex. We are committed to at all times to acting in the best interests of children.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns are treated very seriously and are consistent with our safeguarding policies and procedures. GMS is committed to nurturing all the children in our care, respecting their dignity, ensuring their safety and protecting them from abuse.

Every person involved at Gisborne Montessori School understands their legal and moral obligations to protect our children and respond promptly to any concerns regarding a child's safety and wellbeing, including contacting authorities where relevant.

Gisborne Montessori School demonstrates its commitment to the safety and well being of children by:

- taking a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety; [SEP]
- valuing and empowering children to participate in decisions which affect their safety and wellbeing;
- providing children and young people with the knowledge and skills to understand and maintain their own personal safety; [SEP]
- fostering a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children; [SEP]
- respecting diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
- involving families, carers and relevant communities in decision making processes that support the development of a child safe culture;
- taking proactive steps to prevent child abuse, and identifying risks early so that such risks may be removed or reduced;
- continuously reviewing and improving our systems and practices to protect children and young people from abuse;

- ensuring that GMS has in place strategies to embed and enhance a culture of child safety and wellbeing through the leadership, governance and culture of the organisation;
- engaging only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
- providing regular training and education on recognising the nature and indicators of child abuse and other harm, responding to safeguarding risks and how to build culturally safe environments for children and young people;
- implementing specific policies, procedures, training and a National Code of Conduct and a set of Child Safeguarding Standards to support the achievement of a child safe culture;

responding swiftly to any child safety concerns and implementing clear procedures for managing and reporting child safety concerns;

- sharing information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and;
- understanding the important and specific role that staff, contractors and volunteers of Gisborne Montessori School play individually and collectively to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make

## DETAILS

<b>REVIEWED</b>	September 2020
<b>MAINTAINED</b>	Gisborne Montessori School Board
<b>RATIFIED</b>	
<b>NEXT REVIEW</b>	2022