

South Oakleigh College

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**SOUTH OAKLEIGH**  
COLLEGE



## **COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY**

South Oakleigh College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

South Oakleigh College has zero tolerance for child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our policies and procedures.

We are 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. Our school is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

We have a legal and moral obligation to contact authorities when we are concerned over a child's safety.

We support and respect all children and are committed to the cultural safety of all including children from Aboriginal backgrounds and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

South Oakleigh College has a robust human resource and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.

We are committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.

Every person involved in South Oakleigh 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.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

In its planning, decision-making and operations, South Oakleigh 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.