

Standard 6 – Strategies to Identify Reduce Remove the Risk of Child Abuse

18 May 2021



**VIRTUAL
SCHOOL VICTORIA**

Strategies to Identify and Reduce or Remove the Risk of Child Abuse

Description

VSV takes a risk management approach by identifying and considering child safety risk(s) based on a range of factors including the nature of activities undertaken with children, physical and online environments and the characteristics of children - including the cultural safety for Aboriginal children; children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and the safety of children with a disability. It covers both 'business as usual' risks at school and risks posed by specific activities such as excursions. Where risks are identified, VSV institutes measures to reduce or remove them. Refer to the school's ***Excursion, Incursion, External Providers, Anti-Bullying & Anti-Cyber Bullying, Internet, On-Site Supervision, Student Visit and Duty of Care policies.***

Rationale

VSV has an active approach to its duty of care in protecting children and address this through implementation of a risk management approach consistent with its legal responsibilities to ensure the safety of children.

How VSV implements this standard

We implement this standard by:

- Integrating child safety risk appraisal into the VSV risk register and related risk management strategy, ensuring a holistic evaluation of child safety across the whole school environment.
- Securing the endorsement of the VSV Advisory Board for the amended risk management assessment. Amendments include increased attention to the risks related to the high level of vulnerability for some VSV students and risks related to the prevalence of student engagement through home based, online learning pathways.
- Ensuring clear processes for identifying, recording and acting on child safety risks are in place and school leadership are trained and supported in implementing these processes.
- Maintaining objective, cyclic review and evaluation of the VSV risk management strategy under the guidance of the VSV Principal and Advisory Board. In addition to annual evaluation the risk assessment strategy will be reviewed as part of risk event follow up.
- Ensuring all staff and school leadership are trained and supported in implementing child safe practice in accordance with the VSV Code of Conduct through induction processes and annual professional learning.

The VSV Risk Register, incorporating child abuse and safety risks, has been inserted below:



CSS 6 - VSV Risk Assessment

By successfully implementing this standard VSV will be a school in which:

- Situational risks are considered and understood by all staff
- Steps are put in place to reduce risks where possible
- Risk management approaches are regularly reflected on and improved
- Specific risks to Aboriginal children and young people are identified, assessed and mitigated
- Specific risks to children and young people from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background are identified, assessed and mitigated
- Specific risks to children and young people with a disability are identified, assessed and mitigated



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