



COLDSTREAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFE

POLICY STANDARD #6

STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY AND REDUCE OR REMOVE RISKS OF CHILD ABUSE

Child Safe Standard 6 requires schools to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate risk management strategies to ensure child safety in school environments. This guide outlines what is required by schools to declare their compliance with Ministerial Order 870.

A child safety risk management strategy is a formal and structured approach to managing risks associated with child safety. The Risk Assessment Template Appendix 1, can be used as a starting point.

Background

On 26 November 2015, the Victorian Parliament passed the Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015 to introduce seven child safe standards (the Standards) into law. The Standards apply to all organisations involved in child-related work in Victoria.

Ministerial Order No. 870 provides the framework for how schools will be required to comply with the Standards. Overall responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

In accordance with the Ministerial Order regarding Standard 6, Coldstream Primary School:

- will regularly review possible risks against the Risk Assessment Template Appendix 1.
- will address any risks and apply risk management strategies in a timely fashion.
- The school's governing authority must develop and implement risk management strategies regarding child safety in school environments.
- The school's risk management strategies regarding child safety must identify and mitigate the risk(s) of child abuse in school environments by taking into account the nature of each school environment, the activities expected to be conducted in that environment (including the provision of services by contractors or outside organisations), and the characteristics and needs of all children expected to be present in that environment.
- If the school governing authority identifies risks of child abuse occurring in one or more school environments the authority must make a record of those risks and specify the action(s) the school will take to reduce or remove the risks (risk controls). Explanatory note: Different risk controls may be necessary for particular groups of children depending on the nature of the risk and diversity characteristics of children affected by the risk.
- As part of the risk management strategy and practices, the school governing authority must monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of its risk controls.

- least annually, the school governing authority must ensure that appropriate guidance and training is provided to the individual members of the school governing authority and school staff about :
 - individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for managing the risk of child abuse
 - child abuse risks in the school environment
 - the school’s current child safety standards

Process for identifying and reducing or removing risks of child abuse

Risk management assessments and strategies will be applied using the following steps and considerations.

1. Identification of the school’s child safety risks across the range of school environments (including excursions, camps, online).
2. Identify any existing risk mitigation measures or existing controls.
3. Assess and rate the school’s child safety risks given the existing controls in place, taking into account the likelihood of risk, and the likely consequence of the risk.
4. If the risk rating is more than the ‘acceptable level’, identify further risk management strategies through additional treatments or other prevention, detection or mitigation strategies and then re-assess the risk (once in place these treatments will then become controls).

The risk management process should be documented, recorded and reviewed periodically. Effective risk management strategies are dynamic and change over time as new risks arise and others may no longer be relevant.

Effective risk management strategies need to be transparent, well understood and diverse, to take account of the increased level of risk associated with the specific nature of some activities and the vulnerability of particular groups.

Resources and References

- Commission for Children and Young People: [Being a Child Safe Organisation](#)
- [Risk Management in Schools](#)
- e-learning module : [Protecting Children – Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations](#)
- [Victorian Government Gazette: Ministerial Order 870: Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools](#)
- [Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority: Resources](#)

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

September, 2019

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- Duty of Care Policy
- Incursion and Excursion Policy – when learning with an external provider
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- On-Site Supervision of Students Policy
- School Camp Policy