

The Silkwood School Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

Objectives

This Statement provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within the School
- the creation of a safe and supportive school environment and a positive and robust child protection culture
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the School
- compliance with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in Queensland.

Statement of Commitment

Silkwood School is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people at the School and is dedicated to protecting them from harm.

At Silkwood School, we have zero tolerance for child abuse. Our child protection responsibilities are of the utmost importance for the School and, as such, the School is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations, and to maintain a safe and supportive school environment for all children and young people.

Child Safe Values & Principles

The following child safe values and principles guide the School's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the School.

1. All children have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
3. The views and privacy of the child must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct and Staff and Student Professional Boundaries policy.
5. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.

6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our School community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all School Board directors, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the school community.

Child Protection Contact Officers

As part of our commitment to child protection, safety and wellbeing, Silkwood School has appointed a number of Child Protection Contact Officers as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the school community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Child Protection Contact Officers are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing and the Child Protection Program.

Responsibilities

The School acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

At Silkwood School, all directors of the School Board, staff members and Volunteers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children. Specific responsibilities for each group of the School community are further explained in the Who is Responsible for Child Protection? section of our Child Protection Program.

Reporting Concerns

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for Directors of the School Board, staff, Volunteers and Third-Party Contractors for identifying key risk indicators of child abuse and how to report child abuse concerns to one of our School's nominated Child Protection Contact Officers. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, students, parents/carers and other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse are asked to contact one of the School's Child Protection Contact Officers.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.