



# KINROSS WOLAROI SCHOOL

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

### 1. STATEMENT PURPOSE

- 1.1 Kinross Wolaroi School (**the School**) is committed to promoting the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of our students. The School takes a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety with a commitment to the participation and empowerment of all children as well as the needs of all students, including those with a disability, indigenous students, and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- 1.2 This Statement provides the framework for:
- (i) the development of work systems, practices, policies, and procedures that promote child protection, safety, and wellbeing at the School.
  - (ii) The creation of a safe and supportive school environment with a positive and proactive child protection culture ensuring all children and young people know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues.
  - (iii) the promotion and open discussion of child protection within the School with a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose and confidentially report risks of harm to children.
  - (iv) complying with all legislation and standards relevant to child protection in NSW.
- 1.3 This statement should be read in conjunction with the School's *Staff Code of Conduct* and *Child Protection Policy*.

### 2. GUIDING PRINCIPLE

- 2.1 At all times, the safety, welfare and well-being of students and children will be the paramount consideration in all decisions made and action taken.

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### 3. APPLICATION

- 3.1 This Statement applies to the School and its Council Members, Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, Student Teachers and Students, for the safety, protection, and well-being of all School students.
- 3.2 It is an expectation that all of these groups commit to, support, and promote the School's *Child Protection Policy* and *Staff Code of Conduct*.

### 4. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

4.1 The School is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to reach their full potential and ensure that their safety, welfare, and wellbeing is at the forefront and considered paramount in their time at the School.

- (i) The School has zero tolerance to abuse.
- (ii) The School is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people at the School and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and harm.
- (iii) The School regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, and as such is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations to maintain a safe and supportive school both in the physical and online environments for all children and young people and creating conditions to reduce the likelihood of children being harmed.
- (iv) The School values and empowers children and young people to participate in decisions which affect their lives and provides opportunities for students to participate in discussions about their safety.
- (v) The School values the input of and will communicate regularly with families and carers.

### 5. CHILD SAFE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 The following child safe principles guide the School's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures:
- (i) All children have the right to be safe.
  - (ii) The welfare and best interests of the child is paramount.

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- (iii) The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.
- (iv) Clear expectations for appropriate behavior and interactions with children are established in *Staff Code of Conduct* and the *Child Protection Policy*.
- (v) The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
- (vi) Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our school community.
- (vii) The School engages only the most suitable people to work with children and has high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development, with robust procedures in place to screen all Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers and Student Teachers who have direct contact with children.
- (viii) Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
- (ix) Child protection training is mandatory for all Council Members, Staff Members, Volunteers and Student Teachers.
- (xi) Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the School community.
- (xii) Procedures are in place to ensure all School premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.
- (xi) The School shares information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk.

## 6. CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATORS

- 6.1 As part of our commitment to child safety and protection, the School has several experienced Child Protection Investigators. These staff members are trained to deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

## 7. RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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- 7.2 At Kinross Wolaroi School all members of the School Council, Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.
- 7.3 Specific responsibilities can also be found in the School's Child Protection Policy.
- 7.4 The School will ensure that rigorous reference and background checking of all staff is undertaken as part of the selection process, which includes amongst other things, reference checking and a Working with Children Check. Further detail of this process is outlined in the School's *Child Safe Recruitment Policy*.

## 8. REPORTING CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

- 8.1 The School will report suspected abuse, neglect, or mistreatment without delay to the appropriate authorities.
- 8.2 The School's *Child Protection Policy* provides detailed guidance for all members of the School community as to how to report child abuse concerns to the Principal (or authorised delegate).
- 8.3 Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers, Students, Parents/Carers, or other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse are asked to contact the Principal (or authorised delegate).
- 8.4 Disclosure of child abuse matters are treated confidentially based on a need-to-know basis.
- 8.5 Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police will be called on 000.

## 9. REVIEW

- 9.1 The School is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Policy and to ensuring its compliance with NSW child protection legislation and standards.
- 9.2 The *Child Protection Policy* is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related legislation and standards.

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## 10. SUPPORTING PROCEDURES AND RELATED POLICY

- Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Child Safe Recruitment Policy

## 11. LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)*
- *Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012 (NSW)*
- *The Childrens Guardian Act 2019 (NSW)*
- *Education Act 1990 (NSW)*
- *National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*
- *The NSW Child Safe Standards*

## 12. STATEMENT HISTORY

Original statement adopted by School on 21 July 2022.

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