**CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS**

In September 2015 the Victorian Government released new minimum Child Safety Standards which aim to create CHILD SAFE cultures and environments in organisations that work with children. These standards will be implemented and enforced in Victorian Schools through the school registration framework. All schools must ensure they are meeting the new minimum standards in managing and reducing the risk of child abuse.

Campbellfield Heights Primary School has always strived to put child safety first and has always had a **“zero tolerance’** for child abuse. We have always ensured all staff are appropriately educated in reporting and minimising risks to children and we ensure we follow DET and Mandatory Reporting protocols.

In saying this over the last few months we have closely reviewed our policies and procedures to further minimise the risks to students and to meet the new minimum standards for Child Safety.

To demonstrate our commitment to Child safety we have appointed a Child Safety Officer – Ms Maritsa Rousalis (Well-Being), who has worked closely with leadership in ensuring we are meeting the minimum Child Safety standard requirements.

We will also be introducing a Child Safety Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct. Both these draft documents can be found on our school website ([www.chps5034.vic.gov.au](http://www.chps5034.vic.gov.au)) and address our schools commitment to Child Safety. These documents also address our protocols for reporting child abuse and making a complaint as well as how breaches in our new code of conduct will be responded to. We believe keeping children safe is a team effort and would encourage our entire school community to read these documents and provide us with feedback. These are draft documents and will be reviewed at our next school council meeting (31/08/16). Our staff will also have a chance to read these and provide feedback. Our students will also be involved by contributing to a ‘child friendly’ version of these documents.

We encourage you all to read these documents and welcome all feedback.

To provide feedback or discuss our commitment to child safety please contact Maritsa 9359 5502

**Our commitment to Child Safety statement**

*At Campbellfield Heights Primary School we are committed to Child Safety. We want all our students to be safe, happy, resilient and empowered. At CHPS we support and respect all individuals, including students, staff and volunteers. We have a* ***zero tolerance*** *for Child Abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are concerned about a child’s safety, which we follow rigorously. We are committed to preventing child abuse by identifying risk factors early and removing and reducing these risks for children. Our school has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers. Our school is also committed to regularly training and educating staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.*

*Here at CHPS we are committed to protecting and respecting the culture of our Aboriginal and our culturally and/or linguistic diverse students as well as this we ensure we provide a safe and inclusive environment for students with a disability.*

*Our school has extensive policies and procedures and training in place that supports all staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments. These policies and procedures are reviewed regularly.*

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