

## CHILD SAFE STANDARD 5:

### Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools

The child safe standards require organisations that provide services for children to have processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse. All teachers are required by law (mandatory reporting) to report any disclosures of abuse, or suspected child abuse to the relevant authorities – which include the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and, in some cases, Victoria Police.

Regardless of the suspected cause, all concerns about the wellbeing of students at Bonbeach Primary School will be taken seriously and acted upon. This includes concerns about the wellbeing of a student which do not appear to be the result of abuse.

If a student makes an allegation of abuse, we will:

separate him/her from the other children discreetly and listen to them carefully.

let the student use his/her own words to explain what has occurred.

reassure the student that we take what he/she is saying seriously, and it is not his/her fault and that he/she is doing the right thing.

explain to him/her that this information may need to be shared others, such as with his/her parent/carer, specific people at Bonbeach PS (eg the Principal, Assistant Principal or Student Wellbeing coordinator), or the police.

not make promises to the student such as promising not to tell anyone about the incident, except that you will do your best to keep them safe.

not leave the student in a distressed state. If he/she seem at ease in our company, we will stay with him/her.

if appropriate, provide him/her with an incident report form to complete, or complete it together, if we think the student is able to do this.

as soon as possible after the disclosure, record the information using the student's words and report the disclosure to the Principal and Student Well Being Coordinator, police or child protection.

ensure the disclosure is recorded accurately, and that the record is stored securely.

### Resources

Feeling Safe: For Primary School Students - <https://goo.gl/5CN23I>

Protecting Children from Abuse: For Parents and Carers - <https://goo.gl/OlwCNs>

### Child Safety Officer

Did you know that we have a **Child Safety Officer**? As a part of Mr Akeroyd's Student Wellbeing role, he is also Bonbeach Primary School's nominated Child Safety Officer.



Patrick Walsh  
Assistant Principal