



## **Commitment to Child Safety**

Nepean School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This commitment underpins all our care and decision making.

Nepean School has zero tolerance for any and all forms of child abuse, including sexual abuse, emotional and/or psychological abuse, physical abuse, neglect including medical neglect and/or non-compliance.

Nepean School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children in out of home care, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Nepean School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In its planning, decision making and operations, Nepean School will -

- invite, value and acknowledge the feelings, values and ideas of families and carers
- communicate openly and frequently with families and carers in the mode that the family prefers
- take preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety
- value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives
- foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
- respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount
- provide volunteers, staff, students on placements and casual staff with a thorough induction which includes the culture and ethos of the school, child safety commitment, expected conduct and behaviour and pathways for raising issues and/or reporting concerns
- engage only the most suitable people to work with children, who hold current Working with Children card and/or VIT registration

- ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues
- report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities
- share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk