



## Broadford Secondary College

# VRQA CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

*Broadford Secondary College actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including Child Safe Standards.*

### **CHILD SAFE STANDARDS**

Children have the right to be safe and protected, including at school. It is important that you feel confident that your child is safe and well in the care of Broadford Secondary College.

Schools are responsible for keeping children safe. Schools have to meet legal requirements for the care, safety and welfare of students. All schools will need to meet child safe standards to achieve a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

### **Victoria's child safe standards**

In 2013, the Victorian Parliament held an Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations, resulting in the Betrayal of Trust Report.

The report found that more could be done to strengthen existing approaches to child safety. In response, the Victorian Government is phasing in child safe standards for organisations that work with children, including schools.

### **What are the standards?**

The child safe standards require schools to consider all aspects of child safety and put measures in place to protect children from all forms of abuse, including:

- sexual or grooming offences
- physical violence
- serious emotional or psychological harm
- serious neglect.

Below are the seven child safe standards. The Minister for Education has set out in Ministerial Order No. 870 what specific actions schools need to take to meet the child safe standards.

### **STANDARD NUMBER**

#### **What is required in each school?**

1. Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety.
2. A child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety.
3. A child safety code of conduct.
4. School staff selection, supervision and management practices for a child-safe environment.
5. Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse.
6. Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.
7. Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation.

### **ALL STANDARDS**

School governing authorities must take account the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities and children who are vulnerable.