



GUTHRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

STANDARD 6

STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY AND REDUCE OR REMOVE RISKS OF CHILD ABUSE

DESCRIPTION

Guthridge Primary School has adopted a risk management approach which will identify and consider our student's safety risk(s) based on a range of factors including the nature of our activities with children, physical and online environments and the characteristics of children to whom we provide services. This covers both 'business as usual' risks and risks posed by specific activities such as excursions and overnight trips. Where risks are identified, Guthridge Primary School will employ measures to reduce or remove them.

RATIONALE

Guthridge Primary School has an active, risk management approach to our duty of care in protecting children and a commitment to continuous improvement. Additionally, the implementation of our risk management approach is recognition of Guthridge Primary School's legal responsibilities to ensure the safety of children.

How Guthridge Primary School will implement the 'Risk Management' approach:

- Ensure clear and accessible processes for evaluating risks posed by situations and activities appropriate to the organisation, its size and resources, physical and online environments, and the characteristics of the children to whom it provides services.
- Develop, record and communicate clear processes for removing risks to children:
 - Child Safe Policy
 - Duty of Care Policy
 - Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
 - Visitors Policy
 - Volunteers Policy
 - Yard Duty and Supervision Policy
 - Digital technologies Policy
- Provide relevant staff and volunteers with training in identifying child abuse risks
- Engage methods for continual improvement in how risks are managed by learning from past lessons, including policy review and staff training.
- Ensure supervision requirements for staff and volunteers who work with children.
- Initiate processes for periodic review of risk management approaches and/or processes and following any incidents.
- Recognise and adapt to the needs of particular children and communities, including Aboriginal children, culturally and/or linguistically diverse children and children with a disability. For example, acknowledgement that greater staff or volunteer to child ratios may be needed for some children with a disability.
- Recognise and address risks for children with a disability, for example communication barriers when telling an adult they feel unsafe.

- Have a central reporting and advisory contact for staff to raise concerns and get advice about what to do if they need to report suspected abuse, the Principal / the Assistant Principal / Welfare Officer / Child Safety Officer.
- Include discussion about apparent risks or 'near misses' in staff and team meetings and areas for improvement.
- Roster staff with appropriate experience and qualifications to manage high risk environments.

Successfully implementing this approach should result in Guthridge Primary School being a place where:

- situational risks are considered and understood by all staff
- steps are put in place to reduce risks where possible
- risk management approaches are regularly reflected on and improved
- specific risks to Aboriginal children are identified, assessed and mitigated
- specific risks to children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background are identified, assessed and mitigated
- specific risks to children with a disability are identified, assessed and mitigated.

REVIEW CYCLE:

To ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed every 2 years.
Last Reviewed: August 2019