



CHILD SAFE STANDARD 2: BSSC STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Bendigo Senior Secondary College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Bendigo Senior Secondary College has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Bendigo Senior Secondary College 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 and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Bendigo Senior Secondary College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role each of us plays, individually and collectively, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all we do and every decision we make.

Bendigo Senior Secondary College's principles for child safety¹.

In our planning, decision-making and operations Bendigo Senior Secondary College will

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

¹ Adapted from Our Community (2016) *Child Protection Toolkit: What every not-for-profit organisation must do now*.