



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development



Child Safe Environment Policy

"We all have the right to be safe"

"We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust"

The Plympton South Kindergarten Child Safe Environment policy is based on the principle that protecting the safety of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility that can not be compromised by other considerations. Children have a fundamental right to be protected and keep safe while they are in our care. Children who are unsafe are at risk of having their physical health and wellbeing negatively impacted on which, in turn, can negatively affect children's experiences, learning and wellbeing in the present and throughout their future lives. Preventing and intervening in the abuse and neglect of children and young people is a moral and legal obligation, a contribution to breaking cycles of intergenerational abuse, and a contribution to the safety and wellbeing of everyone participating in DECD sites/services and of the wider community.

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011:

Regulation 168 (2) (h)

Related key regulation: 84

Links to the National Quality Standards:

National Quality Standard 2.3 7.1

Children and young people have a right to:

- Be treated with respect and to be protected from harm
- Feel and be safe in their interactions with adults and other children and young people
- Understand, as early as possible, what is meant by 'feeling and being safe'
- Have the support of adults in the kindergarten whose role includes advocacy for their safety and wellbeing

At Plympton South Kindergarten, we will ensure that we:

- Provide safe, respectful and engaging environments where children and young people observe and are taught positive life skills and values
- Recognise when children and young people's wellbeing or safety is being compromised and follow up on such concerns

-Understand that the needs of children and young people who have been harmed through violence, abuse or neglect may require us to adapt our programs and support accordingly

At Plympton South Kindergarten, we will do this by:

-Ensuring that all staff, volunteers, visiting support staff (NDIS), student teachers, work experience students and non-teaching staff obtain a DSCI clearance prior to commencing at the site, a copy of this is to be kept on site.

-All visitors need to sign in and out in the 'sign on' book.

-New staff and volunteers will receive and record an induction process which includes their responsibilities for keeping children safe.

-Staff will participate in 3 yearly Responding to Abuse and Neglect training.

-Staff need to discuss with the director any concerns about staff or volunteers who are not working in accordance to the **protective practice guidelines**. Director will follow the '**Managing Allegations of Misconduct in SA Education and care setting**'.

-Teaching all components in the Child Protection Curriculum which will be implemented by trained staff.

-All staff are aware of the current Child Protection law.

- South Australia Children's Protection Regulations 2010
- South Australia Children's Protection Act 1993

ANY CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS MUST BE ADDRESSED WITH THE DIRECTOR

Resources:

-DECD Child protection in schools, Early Childhood Education and Care Services Policy.

-DECD Protective Practices – for Staff in their interactions with children and young children.

-DECD Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings.

-DECD Responding to Problem sexual behaviour in children and young people – Guidelines for staff in education and care setting.

This Policy has been developed by the Governing Council

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by both the staff and Governing Council and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the Centre. This policy has been developed by the Preschool director in consultation with staff and the Governing Council endorsed by the Governing Council May 2017

Chairperson

Policy Issue Number 2

Policy review Date:1/05/2019