

The new Child Safe Standards outlined in Ministerial Order 1359 come into effect on 1 July 2022, in all Victorian schools. Schools will transition from the current seven Standards to the new 11 Standards, and Ministerial Order 870 will no longer apply. The new Standards have been updated from 7 to 11 Standards and include new requirements such as:

- involving families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
- a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people
- managing the risk of child abuse in online environments.

Please find below the 11 new Child Safe Standards which will commence on 1 July 2022

THE NEW CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

- 1** | **Culturally safe environments** – Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- 2** | **Leadership, governance and culture** – Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- 3** | **Child and student empowerment** – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- 4** | **Family engagement** – Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- 5** | **Diversity and equity** – Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- 6** | **Suitable staff and volunteers** – People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- 7** | **Complaints processes** – Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.
- 8** | **Child safety knowledge, skills and awareness** – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- 9** | **Child safety in physical and online environments** – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- 10** | **Review of child safety practices** – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- 11** | **Implementation of child safety practices** – Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.