



STATEMENT

Gilson College is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Gilson College has zero tolerance for child abuse. Gilson 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 given to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability. Every person involved in Gilson College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In its planning, decision-making and operations Gilson College will:

- Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety
- Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives
- Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
- Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount
- Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children
- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development
- 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
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers

Child abuse includes sexual offences, grooming, physical violence, serious emotional or psychological harm, serious neglect and a child's exposure to family violence.

Gilson College has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse. At Gilson College, a child includes Gilson College Students, visiting students and international students.

Broader child safety issues arising from our common law duty of care are dealt with through our Student Duty of Care Program. If you have a belief or suspicion that a child is being, or has been, subjected to any form of abuse you must contact the Victorian Child Protection Service or, where you need guidance on making a report or have questions regarding child safety, contact one of the Gilson College's appointed Child Protection Officers. Whenever

there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000

This statement was shared with staff on:

This statement was ratified by the College Council on:

This statement was updated on: 17th February, 2017