



## Commitment to Child Safety

### Purpose and Background

- All children and young people have the right to feel safe and be safe.
- DOBCEL will not tolerate child abuse. The wellbeing of children and young people in the care of a DOBCEL school will always be the first priority.
- The school aims to create a child-safe environment where children and young people are free to flourish without concern for their safety.

### DOBCEL Schools' commitment to students

- The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people
- Providing children and young people with positive and nurturing experiences
- Listening to children and young people and empowering them by taking student views seriously and addressing concerns raised
- Taking action to ensure children and young people are protected from abuse or harm
- Teaching children and young people the skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing
- Seeking input and feedback from students regarding the creation of a safe school environment.
- Providing age appropriate language for students to be able to understand the policy and procedure and their rights.

### DOBCEL Schools' commitment to and with parents and carers

- Communicating openly with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children
- Engaging with, and listening to, the views of parents and carers about school child-safety practice, policies and procedures
- Transparency in school decision-making with parents and carers that ensures the safety of children or young people
- Acknowledging the cultural diversity of students and families, and being sensitive to how this may impact on student safety issues
- Continuously reviewing and improving school systems to protect children and young people from abuse.

### DOBCEL Schools' commitment to school staff (school employees, volunteers, contractors, and clergy)

- Providing all school staff with the necessary support to enable them to fulfill their roles including regular and appropriate learning opportunities
- Providing all school staff with regular opportunities to clarify the intent and application of child safe policy and procedures including annual training specific to the Child Safety Policy and Safeguarding Children and Young People: Code of Conduct, and staff responsibilities to report concerns
- Listening to all concerns voiced by all school staff about keeping children and young people safe from harm
- Providing opportunities for all school staff to receive formal debriefing and counselling arising from incidents of the abuse of a child or young person.