



## Yaapeet Primary School

### Working With Children Checks Policy

#### CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

At *Yaapeet Primary School* we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from our school Vision statement that:

Our vision is for our students to reach their academic, social, emotional and physical potential. This will occur in a safe and caring school environment where they develop independence, self-discipline, resilience, acceptance of others and senses of community and personal achievement.

Our school has also adopted a Child Safe Statement that articulates our zero tolerance of child abuse.

Yaapeet Primary School is fully aware of its obligations under the **Child Safe Standards** (Ministerial Order 870 – effective 1 September 2016) to protect students from all forms of child abuse. To this end, all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that ICT usage does not pose a risk to child safety.

Yaapeet Primary School is committed to child safety – We have a zero tolerance for child abuse.

**Aims:**

- To ensure children under our care are protected from being exposed to inappropriate people and subsequent child abuse.
- To ensure all people engaged in 'child related work' with our students and who are required to have Working with Children Checks, do so
- To ensure that our school complies with the relevant Acts and laws. (Ministerial Order 870)
- To provide an environment that is safe.

**Implementation:**

- As of 1 January 2008, all workers or volunteers related in 'child related work' must undergo Working with Children checks prior to commencing work.
- You are considered to be performing 'child related work' if you work or volunteer at a school or school related activities, and you volunteer or do this work on a regular basis, and you have direct contact with children under 18yrs of age which is unsupervised, and you do not qualify for an exemption.
- All teaching staff members are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and undergo ongoing monitoring that satisfies Working with Children Check requirements, and are therefore exempt.
- All Education Support staff members have a Working with Children Check as a condition of their employment.
- Parents who volunteer in relation to an activity in which his or her child ordinarily participates (eg: classroom reading) are also exempt. If the same parent volunteers in a class or activity that his or her child does not ordinarily participate in, then a check is required,
- School Council does not pay for Working with Children Checks, which are free to volunteers.
- All people required to have Working with Children Checks are issued a WWC Check card which School Council expects them to display on their person at all practicable times when working or volunteering at the school or during school related activities.
- School Council will maintain a record of volunteers with up to date WWC Checks.
- School Council requires that all volunteers directly involved in school camps, excursions, sleep-overs, teaching of swimming lessons, transport of students without staff members present, extra-curricular activities such as school sporting teams etc. and those visiting the school for incursions, all have valid Working With Children Checks.

#### **Child Safety Standard 4 – Staff Selection Checklist**

When recruiting new staff or volunteers some important child safety areas for assessment include the applicant's:

- \* motivation is to work with children?
- \* relevant and verifiable child-related work experience
- \* understanding of professional boundaries
- \* communication skills

Refer to the *YPS Staff Selection Policy* for further information.

#### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle, or as required due to changes in relevant Acts, Laws or should situations arise that require earlier consideration.

#### **Reference:**

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/community/Pages/volunteers.aspx>

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/resources.html>

**This policy was last ratified by the YPS School Council**

**August 2016**