

Child Safe Environment Policy (Child Protection)

Rationale:

In accordance with Department for Education policy, we recognise that the safety of children is a fundamental responsibility of St Philip's Preschool Kindergarten. All children have the right to feel and be safe in all their interactions with others, understand what it means to be safe, and be in the care and education of adults who respect and advocate their safety and wellbeing. The staff has a legal obligation to respond to abuse and neglect.

Maintaining children's attendance and engagement at preschool is crucial to their safety and wellbeing. This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the Department for Education Child Safe Environments Policy, Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), and Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) Principles and Outcome 1, "Children have a Strong Sense of Identity – children feel safe, secure and supported".

The preschool implements a Child Protection Program, which aims to empower children with strategies to help themselves feel safe. If they are uncomfortable about a situation they are able to help themselves feel safe. We believe that through this program your children will:

- Become more aware of their feelings and be able to express them more clearly and appropriately
- Improve their own sense of worth
- Recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and attitudes
- Continue to develop good relationships with other children and adults by increasing their own communication skills
- Increase their problem solving ability

Curriculum

There are 2 Primary Themes:

1. We all have the right to be safe
2. We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to the people we trust.

***This Policy** will be shared with all new staff and families, and available to view in the Preschool Policies Booklet and on the Preschool Website.*

***Enrolled families** will be asked to confirm they have read and understand this Policy by signing the Information & Consents Form at the time of enrolment.*

Review Date: March 2021

Revision Dates: March 2018, March 2017, March 2016

Endorsed and Ratified by:

Director: *Maggie Slattery*

Governing Council: *Natalie Worthington-Eyre*