

Berry Street School's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Berry Street is a Child Safe Organisation as is the Berry Street School. We believe all children and young people have an inherent right to grow up healthy, happy and safe.

The Berry Street School is committed to providing education that is socially, emotionally, culturally and spiritually safe, as well as physically safe for all students; where there is no challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need.

Many of our students and their families have experienced difficult and challenging life situations. The Berry Street School aims to create and sustain a safe and inclusive learning community where our students have access to a high-quality education so they can thrive, achieve and belong.

As a school we are dedicated to child safety and empowerment. We recognise, respect and promote students' rights within the Berry Street school and the broader community. We acknowledge that students have a right to have their voice heard, valued and respected. We prioritise and welcome their feedback in decision making processes.

We work alongside students from all backgrounds and experiences across a range of our programs. This includes:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children
- Children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Children who have a disability
- Children who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- Children in out-of-home care

The Berry Street School is committed to understanding the unique experience and needs of all our students. We want students to feel welcome and to belong at our campuses.

To keep students safe, there is a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse or maltreatment within our school or associated programs within Berry Street. In addition, there is zero tolerance for not reporting suspected abuse or maltreatment internally and externally.

To prevent abuse, the Berry Street School identifies risks students may face in different settings. This includes risks in the physical environment and risk of exploitation online. Additionally, we ensure all teachers are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and all other staff in positions of child-focused work hold a current Working with Children Check. Staff are also required to participate in ongoing education relating to child safety and wellbeing and we are committed to removing and reducing all risks to our students.

Victorian Child Safe Standards and National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

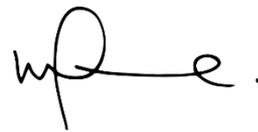
Berry Street is committed to actioning the Victorian Child Standards, National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the Ministerial Order updated to No. 1359. We fulfil this commitment by:

- Establishing a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children students are respected and valued
- Ensuring child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
- Empowering students about their rights to participate in decisions affecting them and ensuring their views are taken seriously
- Ensuring families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
- Ensuring equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice
- Ensuring that the people working with students are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice
- Maintaining processes for complaints and concerns which are child focused
- Ensuring staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep students safe through ongoing education and training
- Ensuring physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for our students to be harmed
- Regularly reviewing and improving the implementation of Child Safe Standards and National Child Safe Principles in line with the Ministerial Order 1359
- Ensuring policies and procedures are in place which document how the organisation is safe for students.

If you would like more information about Berry Street's child safe commitment or would like to raise a concern, you can email childsafety@berrystreet.org.au or email the School Principal Rebecca Robinson at rrobinson@berrystreet.org.au.



Dr Jo Flynn AM
President, Berry Street Board



Michael Perusco
Chief Executive Officer