

*Charles La Trobe P-12 College takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all **Child Safety Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)***

Rationale

- Some children will enter school with an identified need for which they are eligible for funding under the Program for Children with Disabilities.
- Some children may be identified through the school referral process and relevant testing to be emotionally, socially or academically at risk.
- Additional may emerge sometime after the student has commenced school.
- Disability funding may or may not transfer with the student from the feeder primary school.

Purpose

- To ensure Charles La Trobe College has a specific plan to engage children at risk and to cater for their needs.
- To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines.
- To ensure the College complies with Child Safe Standards 1 & 2.

Definitions

“Children at Risk” are children who have been identified with special learning needs and require alternative consideration and program modification for them to reach their potential.

Implementation

- The safety and wellbeing of children is the highest priority for the College.
- The school will establish a formal collaborative process for referral of children suspected of being at risk.
- If the school receives a student deemed at risk, the Principal will perform a risk assessment and develop an Action Plan that involves parents, staff, guidance officers, the student and any other party.

Note: Where there is a foreseeable risk, the transferring Principal is required to collect evidence from student records, CASES21 incident reports, student program information or other relevant information provided by school staff and update the transfer note with the circumstances relevant to the risk such as known triggers that escalate the risk and actions known to lessen or remove the risk.

- Parents/carers must be informed, but their consent is not required for documenting foreseeable risk information or including this information on the transfer note.
- Privacy provisions require that staff keep the information confidential.

CHILD SAFE STANDARD 6, 2017

CHILDREN AT (EDUCATIONAL) RISK POLICY



- If deemed appropriate, external agencies will be engaged to provide professional input into the identification of the needs of the student.
- All children at risk will be supported through a Student Support Group (SSG).
- The parent/carer and student if applicable, and all persons working with the child will be members.
- The SSG will meet at least twice yearly for the purpose of developing and/or reviewing the student's Individual Learning Plan and/or Behaviour Support Plan.
- Please refer also to the school's *Student Engagement Policy*, the *Student Transfers Policy* and the *Student Wellbeing & Learning Policy*.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's [three-year review cycle](#), following an incident if it occurs [or if guidelines change \(latest information late July 2016\)](#).

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the College Council on 16th August 2016.

This policy was reviewed and re-ratified on 12th December, 2017.

References:

VRQA Child Safe Standards Toolkit

Creating a Child Safe Organisation Guide p.22

An Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards State of Victoria, DHHS November 2015

Protect – Identifying All Forms of Child Abuse in Victorian Schools 2016