



Policy Summary: Family Engagement for Child Safety and Wellbeing

This policy summary should be read in conjunction with the policies located on the school's Policy Connect portal

Family and Community Involvement, Cultural Safety and Equity-Diversity

<https://mansfieldrudolfsteiner.policyconnect.com.au/module/262/page/eb994f34-8be0-4ac3-963d-36c850b5665b.md>

Family and Community Involvement in Child Safe at the School

<https://mansfieldrudolfsteiner.policyconnect.com.au/module/262/page/1f7782a9-1a1d-42a6-9712-c0ad4b40bb08.md>

Purpose:

Mansfield Steiner School is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children in our care. We believe that family engagement is a critical factor in achieving this goal. Our school recognizes that families are essential partners in promoting child safety and well-being. We aim to establish a culture of trust, transparency, and open communication with families and the school community. This policy outlines the strategies and actions that we will undertake to support family engagement and participation in decisions related to child safety and wellbeing.

Strategies:

Establish clear communication channels: We will establish clear communication channels to ensure that families are informed about the school's child safety approach. We will make sure that all relevant information is accessible to families and the school community. This will include regular newsletters, website updates, and parent-teacher meetings.

Consultation and feedback:

We will regularly consult with families and the school community about child safety and well-being policies and practices. We will seek feedback from families about their experiences and suggestions for improvement. We will use this feedback to inform the development and review of our policies and practices.

Actions:

- Strong class teacher and class guardian relationships supported by the long-term nature of these roles. This promotes positive, honest relationships with students and families.
- Clear processes around parents' participation in camps, excursions and volunteering at school with requirements for WWCC and sign-ins
- Risk briefings as part of camps and excursions



- Input into the Strategic Planning process of the school.

Encourage participation:

We will encourage families to participate in decisions related to child safety and well-being that affect their child. This will include involving families in risk assessments and safety planning. We will also provide opportunities for families to provide input into decision-making processes related to child safety and wellbeing.

Actions:

- This participation will occur in a significant way through our strategic planning process.
- Parents Involved in the planning and execution of Camps and Excursions
- Regular information disseminated through Sentral messaging system, class teach correspondence, and the school newsletter (Messenger)

Education and training:

We will provide education and training to families and the school community about child safety and wellbeing. We will provide information about the signs of child abuse and neglect, how to report concerns, and how to support children who may be experiencing harm.

Actions:

- Twice yearly Sentral updates with guidance for parents
- Website updates
- Parent education sessions (Developing the self and Lou Harvey Zahara)

Support and resources:

We will provide families and the school community with access to support and resources related to child safety and well-being. This may include referrals to external services, such as child protection agencies, counselling services, or legal services.

Actions:

- Referrals through our Head of Wellbeing to local services including, Orange Door, Mansfield Family Services, Mansfield Autism State-wide Service, Extra Lesson, Maclit, counselling, and speech therapy.
- Increasing the FTE loading of our well-being position 2024

Governance and transparency: We will ensure that families and the school community are informed about the operations and governance of the school related to child safety and wellbeing. We will



provide information about our policies, procedures, and decision-making processes. We will also ensure that families are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

Actions:

- Governance presence at Parent information nights
- Annual report
- Parent membership of the MRSSK Association, Governance Committee, and P&F promoted.

Review and continuous improvement: We will regularly review our policies and practices related to child safety and wellbeing. We will seek feedback from families and the school community about the effectiveness of our strategies and actions. We will use this feedback to continually improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

Actions:

- Strategic planning involvement of parents
- Annual review of Child safe policies
- Maintenance of Complispace and Policy Connect for staying abreast of legislative changes
- Member of ISV for support and advice on child safety and other governance issues as well as training opportunities
- Annual Staff Training in Child Safety and Mandatory reporting.

Conclusion:

Mansfield Steiner School is committed to working in partnership with families and the school community to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in our care. We recognize the importance of family engagement in promoting child safety and well-being. We will continue to work collaboratively with families to develop and implement strategies and actions to support this goal.

Review date June 2023 Glenn Hood – Sent to GC June 2023

Next review June 2024