

Promote Participation and Empowerment of Children



Description

Chiltern Primary School ensures children feel safe and comfortable in reporting concerns or allegations of abuse. Chiltern Primary School has simple and accessible processes that help children understand what to do if they want to report abuse, inappropriate behaviour or concerns for their safety.

All staff have an awareness of children's rights and adults' responsibilities regarding child abuse.

How Chiltern Primary School promotes participation and empowerment of children:

- We provide children with child-appropriate and accessible information about what child abuse is, their right to make decisions about their body and their privacy, that no one has a right to injure them, and how they can raise concerns about abuse. We have 'Life Education' van visit the school annually, their programs include safety for students' issues
- We ensure information and processes for reporting concerns are accessible to all children. For Example: We would ensure Aboriginal children were accepted when identifying as Aboriginal, and that staff and volunteers would understand appropriate responses to children identifying as Aboriginal
- Encourage participation and empowerment of children in other organisational activities, such as organisational planning and decision making. For example – Student Leadership positions, Assembly presentations, Student Leadership Conferences, Junior School Council

By successfully implementing these strategies Chiltern Primary School ensures:

- reporting procedures for when a child feels unsafe are accessible for all children
- children understand what child abuse is, and their rights (age appropriate)
- children understand how to report an allegation of abuse or concern for their safety to the organisation, a trusted adult and external bodies (for example, the police)
- children feel safe, empowered and taken seriously if they raise concerns
- children feel empowered to contribute to the organisation's understanding and treatment of child safety
- children's reports of concern are responded to appropriately
- staff understand how to empower children and encourage their participation

This policy was ratified by School Council in April 2019