

## **CHILD SAFETY**

### **GENERAL STATEMENT**

All children have the right to feel safe and to be safe. All professionals working with children and/or their families share the responsibility of protecting children. The Child Safety Policy underpins the school community's attitude and practices towards child safety. This policy is written in accordance with the Child Protection Reporting Policy and Education and Training Reform Act, Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools, Ministerial Order No. 870.

### **RATIONALE**

Northern School For Autism is committed to child safety and has a zero tolerance of child abuse. The safety and wellbeing of our students is paramount; we put student needs and rights first to protect them against significant harm from abuse. As staff members we have a legal and moral responsibility to respond to incidences or allegations of abuse of the children with whom we have contact. Staff also actively work to listen to and empower children.

Northern School For Autism is dedicated to child safety and includes a commitment to the safety of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

### **REFERENCES**

Department of Human Services, Child Protection, Children Youth and Families Act (2005)

School Policy and Advisory Guide

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/childprotection.aspx>

Protecting the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Documents/protectionofchildren.PDF>

VRQA Child Safe Resources; A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/resources.html>

VRQA The Child Safe Standards

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe/Pages/standards.html>

This policy will be reviewed each year in line with DET or DHS directives.