

# Child Safety Newsletter

Term 2 - 2023



## Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

The current edition of the Child Safety Newsletter provides our College with a snapshot of the first five Child Safety Standards. In all there eleven Child Safe standards. Organisations who are required to comply with the Standards need to implement all aspects of the 11 Standards. Each of the Standards is expressed as a statement of an expected outcome that organisations must achieve. The new Standards also include minimum requirements, to provide more clarity for our school about what we need to do.

The Child Safe Standards help our College to:

- Promote the safety of children
- Prevent child abuse
- Ensure effective processes are in place to respond to and report allegations of child abuse
- Encourage children to 'have a say', especially on issues that are important to them or about decisions that affect their lives.

Part of the day-to-day management of a registered school is to ensure Child Safety and that safety is embedded.

Ministerial Order No. 1359 provides the framework for child safety in schools. It requires all schools to undertake a child safety risk assessment. There is more information inside our Newsletter.

Please enjoy our Child Safety newsletter.

John Ryan  
Deputy Principal  
Wellbeing – Students and Staff



**Ministerial Order No. 1359 provides the framework for child safety in schools. It requires all schools to undertake a child safety risk assessment.**

To comply with the order, schools must:

- develop and put in place risk management strategies that:
- focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks related to child safety and wellbeing in the school.
- consider the school environment, programs the school delivers and needs of students.
- record of the risks and the actions the school will take to reduce or remove them (risk controls and risk treatments).
- each year, monitor and review child safety and wellbeing risks and assess the effectiveness of risk controls.
- As part of National Reconciliation Week, it is important to acknowledge that Child Safe Standard One is: Aboriginal cultural safety. The Child Safety and Wellbeing policy outlines the controls in place to establish a culturally safe environment and is implemented.
- The policy also identifies that particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning and/or asexual (LGBTIQ+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated at our school, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

## ***Child Safe Standard Three at Work***

The College Student Mission team led by the College Captains have reviewed the Student Speak Version of the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy. Empowering young people improves child safety.

Policies and practices that are shaped by children's and young people's views can better prevent the risk of harm. Children and young people are more likely to speak up when they feel respected and confident that they will be heard.

The College Captains will meet with all class Captains early in term Three to communicate the College Complaints procedure and form. This form can be found on the College SIMON platform and College website.

### **How we empower students to contribute to school life.**

- We display visually engaging and easy-to-read posters promoting student voice and agency in classroom and major traffic areas of the College
- We discuss commitment to student's voice at enrolment and organise student led and focused activities on activating student's voice.
- We conduct year-level meetings to inform students' rights and safety issues.



College Captains: L-R Alessi Green, Grace Berryman, Georgia Hamilton, Jeffrin Matthew and Gabrielle Perry working with Mr John Ryan, Deputy Principal – Wellbeing Students and Staff and Jenny Damon, Compliance Officer.

## Live4Life Program



Live4Life launched at Mary MacKillop at the end of Term 1, with all our Year 8's going to Gumbuya World, with seven schools in Bass Coast and South Gippsland. It was an amazing day with a talk from Beau Vernon and then a couple of hours to enjoy the sunshine and rides! This Term all our Year 8 classes have started their Youth Mental Health First Aid training. They have 3 sessions where they learn about the importance of noticing changing signs in their friends' thinking, feelings, and behaviour. The students have been awesome and are able to contribute to their ideas to the wider discussion on mental health. It has been a pleasure to be part of this journey with them and I look forward to next term when we deliver the program to the Year 10's

# IDAHOBIT

Recently the College celebrated the "International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia" or (IDAHOBIT) day. Building awareness and providing opportunities for our young people to express their diversity lies at the heart of being eucharistic.

The **International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)**, is held annually on the May 17. IDAHOBIT was started on May 17 1990 when the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

IDAHOBIT Day, (International Day against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination) proved to be an important day for Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College to get behind. The significant day gave students and teachers the opportunity to stand up against discrimination and homophobia in our school. The Justice Captains created informative posters, which they displayed around the school with facts relating to discrimination laws, statistics and where to get support. Rainbow ribbons were also distributed among homerooms and staff. The Justice Captains also held a lunchtime rainbow cupcake sale to raise money for the MINUS 18 FOUNDATION, who directly support at risk youth.

The day was enthusiastically supported by Mary Mackillop's Diversity Allies group, who meet every Monday to discuss relevant issues relating to the LGBTQIA+ community. Students and teachers who attend these meetings work together to form strategies and support to make our school safer and more inclusive for everyone. IDAHOBIT Day was extremely important for the group and highlighted how much work we still must do to eradicate homophobia in our school.

Photo of some proud members of the group



# ***Building Resilience***



**Here's some helpful ways for students to learn how to build resilience when coping with stressful situations.**

By our Counsellors Rhiannon le Busque and Kathy Williams

**1**

**MAKE CONNECTIONS**

**BE A FRIEND  
DEVELOP EMPATHY**

**2**

**HELP OTHERS**

**SCHOOL WORK  
LISTENING IN THE  
CLASSROOM**

**3**

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**MAKE A ROUTINE  
FROM THE TIME YOU  
WAKE UP  
TO THE TIME YOU GO  
TO BED**

**4**

**SELF-CARE**

**EAT PROPERLY  
GROOM YOURSELF  
EXERCISE  
REST**

**5**

**GOALS**

**SET REASONABLE  
GOALS  
TAKE ONE STEP AT A  
TIME**

**6**

**POSITIVE SELF-VIEW**

**SUCCESSFULLY  
HANDLING HARD  
TIMES  
TRUST YOURSELF**

**7**

**BE OPTIMISTIC**

**HAVE A POSITIVE  
OUTLOOK TO KEEP  
GOING IN HARD  
TIMES**

**8**

**SELF-DISCOVERY**

**CHANGE IS SCARY  
BUT  
IS PART OF LIFE**

**9**

**MAKE HOME  
A SAFE HAVEN**

**TURN OFF YOUR  
PHONE**

**10**

**TAKE A BREAK**

**DO SOMETHING YOU ENJOY**