

Background

The identification of Child Safe Officers provides students, staff and parents with a clearly identifiable support network in the event of a suspected child safety issue.

However, this does not remove the statutory obligation of all adults to report child abuse as per Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) and Mandatory Reporting regulations, nor does it take away the opportunities of any child to speak to any member of staff should they have concerns.

Responsibilities

Child Safe Officers will be able to:

Provide Authoritative Advice

- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of child safety.
- Liaise with the Principal and leaders to maintain visibility of child safety.
- Lead the development of Lyndhurst's child safety culture, including being a child safety champion and provide coordination in communicating, implementing, monitoring, enhancing and reporting on strategies to embed a culture of child safety.
- Have an understanding of the processes for reporting any incident of child abuse and liaise with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Community Service Organisation's eg Orange Door to support the health and protection of children

Raise Awareness

- Ensure the Lyndhurst Child Safe policies are known by staff and the community and used appropriately.
- Encourage among all staff a culture of listening to children and taking into account their wishes and feelings in any measures to protect them.
- Ensure each member of staff is aware and understands the St Mary's Child Safety policy, reporting procedures and the Safeguarding Children and Young People's Code of Conduct.

Guide Child Safety incident management and reporting

- Promptly manage the response to an allegation or disclosure of child abuse and ensuring the allegation or disclosure is taken seriously.
- Responding appropriately to a child who makes or is affected by an allegation of child abuse and follow St Mary's and statutory procedures including:
- Informing appropriate authorities
- Making, securing and retaining records of the allegation of child abuse and St Mary's response.

The school has a number of Child Safe Officers including the following positions:

Assistant Principal (Student well-being): Moira McCann

Student Well-being Leader: Simone Smith

working in conjunction with.....

Principal: Greg Lacey

Assistant Principals: Mansi Vadera

Jamie Sharp