

# Latrobe Special Developmental School

## Child Safety Policy

Latrobe Special Developmental School embraces the values of Show Respect, Act Safely and Try Your Best. We aim to provide a specialised and challenging education in a safe and supported environment where independence is encouraged so our students can lead fulfilling lives and become valued members of society. This is achieved through a collaborative partnership with all the members of the school and wider community. In support of this:

***At Latrobe Special Developmental School,  
we have a zero tolerance to child abuse.***

### **Rationale:**

All Victorian schools are required to have a child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety that details:

- the principles that will guide the school in developing policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe school environment; and
- the actions the school proposes to take to:
- demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school's adherence to its child safety policy;
- support, encourage and enable school staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters; and
- support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.
- Ensure that child safety is considered in the recruitment, selection and management of staff (includes contractors and volunteers)

Ministerial Order No. 870 (available at [www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe](http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe)) states that Child abuse includes –

- Any act committed against a child involving –
  - A sexual offence or
  - An offence under section 49 B (2) of the *Crimes Act 1958* (grooming)
- The infliction, on a child, of –
  - Physical violence or
  - Serious emotional or psychological harm
- Serious neglect of a child.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

**October 2016**