



Horsham Special School is a Child Safe School

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## Horsham Special School Child Safety Statement of Purpose and Commitment

Horsham Special School considers the **safety** of children as being our highest priority. Our school is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Our school has a **zero tolerance** of child abuse.

Horsham Special School's vision is to provide authentic learning opportunities that empower all students to achieve their academic and personal best. Horsham Special School's mission is based on the fundamentals of providing our students with an education that reduces vulnerability through education, communication, and positive relationships. We do this through a relentless focus that:

- all students at all times have effective communication systems, and that
- all students will feel safe within a trusting and positive environment.

Horsham Special School's objective is for all students to be engaged and active contributors in their communities. Our students will be aspirational in their personal, social, and work- related goals and have the necessary character (attitude) and competence (skills) to participate fully and make positive choices throughout their lives. Horsham Special School's values are Respect, Positivity, and Teamwork.

We respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviours have an impact on the people around us. We show positive attitudes towards our work and others, and model this to those around us. Horsham Special School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Every person involved in Horsham Special School has a **responsibility** to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Horsham Special School is committed in its planning, decision-making and operations to:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk, and;
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.