

Commitment to Child Safety

Gisborne Secondary College is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and / or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Gisborne Secondary College has a zero tolerance for child abuse.

Gisborne Secondary College 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 Gisborne Secondary College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In addition, the statement of Commitment may reflect the school's principles for child safety. For example¹:

"In its planning, decision-making and operations Gisborne Secondary College will

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 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."

¹Adapted from Our Community (2016) Child Protection Toolkit: What every not-for-profit organisation must do now.