

## 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 example<sup>1</sup>:

"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."

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