



## **Child Protection – Reporting Obligations Policy**

### *Purpose of this policy*

All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe. Research Primary School is committed to child protection. This policy ensures that school staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and are able to:

- Understand their various legal obligations to report and take other reasonable steps to discharge the duty of care that may be owed to the child or young person
- Identify indicators that a child or young person has been, is being or is at risk of being abused
- Make a report about a child or young person who has been, is being, or is at risk of being abused.

### *Reporting obligations*

Mandatory reporters (teachers registered to teach or who have permission to teach, principals of government and non-government schools, registered medical practitioners, nurses and all members of the police force) must make a report to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Child Protection) as soon as practicable if, in the course of practising their profession or carrying out their duties they form reasonable belief that a child or young person is in need of protection, as a result of physical injury or sexual abuse, and the child's parents/carers are unable or unwilling to protect the child from that abuse.

A mandatory reporter who fails to comply with these reporting obligations may be committing a criminal offence.

All adults have legal obligations to report to Victoria Police where they form a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under the age of 16.

Failure to disclose the information may amount to a criminal offence.

Any staff member in a position of authority, who becomes aware that an adult associated with their organisation poses a risk of sexual abuse to a child under the care, authority or supervision of the organisation, must take all reasonable steps to remove or reduce the risk.

### *Further reference*

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/childprotection/Pages/default.aspx>

Date policy ratified – October 2018

Date policy reviewed – 2022