

Child Safe Standards

New Child Safe Standards were introduced 1 July 2022. Guidance and resources have been developed to support schools transition to the new Standards.

The department's PROTECT website contains guidance to support schools to implement the new Child Safe Standards including a [new Child Safe Standards Action List](#) for government schools:

- [new Child Safe Standards](#)

The following template resources are also available to support schools implement the new Child Safe Standards:

1. [new Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy template](#) (schools may choose to call this the Child Safety Policy)
2. [new Example Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
3. [new Child Safe Standards Risk Register template](#)
4. [updated Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures](#)
5. [Action Plan - Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety template](#)

A number of other templates on this portal have been updated to ensure they align with the requirements in the new Child Safe Standards. These are:

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy template](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy template](#)
- [Complaints Policy template](#)
- [Volunteers Policy template](#)
- [Visitors Policy template](#)
- [Digital Learning Policy template](#)
- [Yard Duty and Supervision Policy template](#)

Implementation guide

<p>Is it compulsory for all Victorian government schools to have policies addressing this issue?</p>	<p>YES - All schools must demonstrate compliance with the Child Safe Standards</p> <p>Note: the Action Plan - Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety can be a standalone document or incorporated into your Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy</p>
---	--

<p>Do the policies have to be approved by school council?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy: NO 2. Child Safety Code of Conduct: YES, school council needs to approve the code of conduct to the extent it applies to school council members, employees, contractor and volunteers 3. Child Safety Risk Register: NO 4. Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures: NO 5. Action Plan - Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety - NO
<p>Recommended consultation</p>	<p>Under the new Child Safe Standards schools must ensure the school community are given the opportunity to have a say in the development and updating of child safety documents. This includes consultation with school council as a community representative body and inviting other members of the community to have a say in the school's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices such as through your school newsletter or website</p>
<p>What is the basis of these policies?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Order 1359 • Minimum Standards for school registration
<p>Mandatory review cycles</p>	<p>The following policies must be reviewed every 2 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy 2. Child Safety Code of Conduct 3. Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedures 4. Action Plan – Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety (if your school has this as a separate document) <p>The Child Safety Risk Register must be reviewed every year.</p>

- Child safety and wellbeing policies should be publicly available, which generally means placing them on the school's website

- Families and other members of the school community should be given the opportunity to have a say in the school's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices
- Schools can visit the [PROTECT website new Child Safe Standards](#) for resources that explain each standard, and further guidance to implement the standards