
CHILD SAFETY STANDARD 5

Responding to and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse



RATIONALE

As professionals who work with children, staff at East Gippsland Specialist School play a vital role in protecting children from abuse by responding and reporting any incidents, disclosures or suspicions. Staff are often best placed to identify signs and behaviours that may indicate that a child has been subject to abuse, or that a school community member or a school staff member may be a perpetrator of abuse.

IMPLEMENTATION

- All staff at East Gippsland Specialist School will be reminded of their obligation to report any suspicion of child abuse to a member of the leadership team on a regular basis.
- All staff at East Gippsland Specialist School will be reminded of their obligation to report any suspicion that a school community member or a school staff member may be a perpetrator of abuse to a member of the leadership team on a regular basis.
- All staff at East Gippsland Specialist School will be required to complete Mandatory Reporting training annually using the DET online module <http://www.elearn.com.au/det/protectingchildren/schools/>
- All staff at East Gippsland Specialist School will be provided with the “Four Critical Actions for School” poster as a reference for reporting incidents, disclosures and suspicions of child abuse.
- All staff at East Gippsland Specialist School will be required to complete an incident report in the case of a suspected child abuse incident or a suspicion that a school community member or a school staff member may be a perpetrator of abuse.
- All new staff at East Gippsland Specialist School will be made aware of their mandatory reporting obligations and Child Safety Standards during their induction at the beginning of the school year (or their contract start date).
- All staff and volunteers (such as parent helpers, LAP helpers etc) must have a current police criminal records check and/or a Working With Children Check.

APPENDICES

- “Four Critical Actions for School” poster
- Incident Report – Staff
- Incident Report – Leadership
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Induction Handbook