
CHILD SAFETY STANDARD 7

CHILD EMPOWERMENT



RATIONALE

Children have the right to give their views and opinions about decisions that affect them and to be listened to. Empowerment is about helping children to have their say. Children are more likely to speak up about their concerns about feeling unsafe, or make a complaint, if they feel their views are valued and welcomed.

IMPLEMENTATION

East Gippsland Specialist School will develop strategies to deliver appropriate education about:

- standards of behaviour for students attending the school;
- healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality);
- resilience; and
- child abuse awareness and prevention.

East Gippsland Specialist School will promote the Child Safe Standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.

East Gippsland Specialist School delivers appropriate education about **Standards of Behaviour** by:

- ensuring clear expectations for appropriate and inappropriate behavior are monitored using the school's "Standards of Behaviour and Expectations" matrix
- having an up to date Student Engagement and Inclusion Policy
- involving students in decision making through the KidsMatter Student Action Team

East Gippsland Specialist School delivers appropriate education about **Healthy and Respectful Relationships** by:

- implementing "Catching on Early" health and sexuality education program
- implementing a comprehensive Health and Physical Education program
- promoting mental health and wellbeing through the KidsMatter initiative
- involving students in decision making through the KidsMatter Student Action Team

East Gippsland Specialist School delivers appropriate education about **Resilience** by

- promoting, modeling, teaching, acknowledging and celebrating resilience through the "Waves of Success" whole school initiative, Better Buddies program and Friendly School resources.

East Gippsland Specialist School delivers appropriate education about **Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention** by:

- implementing "Catching on Early" health and sexuality education program
- relevant information for parents and community published in the school newsletter
- holding parent information sessions on a needs basis when appropriate