

PROTECT

Child Safe Standard 6

Risk assessment and mitigation



Child Safe Standards - Context

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Protecting children & young people
from abuse is our responsibility

2013:
Betrayal of
Trust Inquiry

2017: Royal
Commission

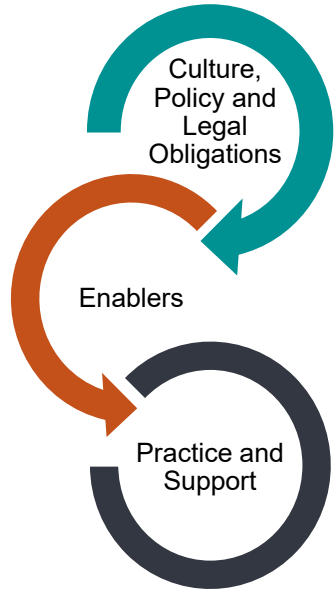
2021: New
Child Safe
Standards



How we support child safety

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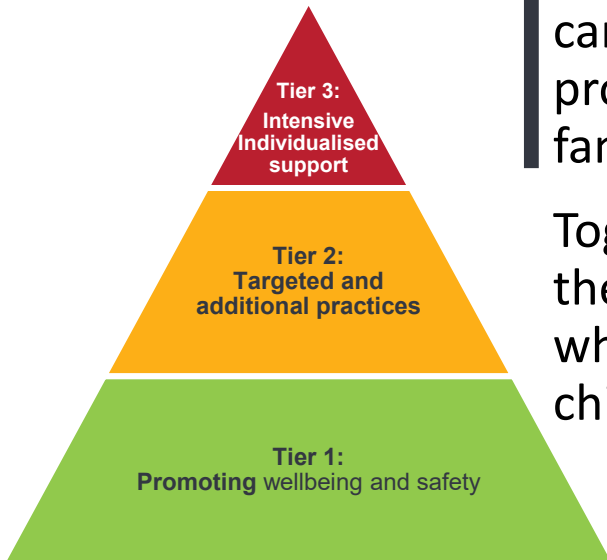


Education and care services in Victoria have well developed frameworks to support child safety and wellbeing and respond to suspected and actual incidents of harm.

Recent reforms have expanded the ability of education and care workforces to request and share information, collaborate earlier, streamline experiences across services and proactively support outcomes for children and their families.

The Department has a range of programs, resources and training to support education and care services to be child safe organisations, promote child wellbeing and safety and manage family violence risk.

Together with other school improvement initiatives, these approaches create a tiered system of support, which enables education and care services to ensure children and young people are safe.



What are the Child Safe Standards?

There are seven Child Safe Standards, plus a Principle of Inclusion.


- **Standard 1:** Strategies to embed an **organisational culture of child safety**
- **Standard 2:** A **child safety policy** or statement of commitment to child safety
- **Standard 3:** A **child safety code of conduct**
- **Standard 4:** Screening, supervision, training and other **human resources practices** that reduce the risk of child abuse
- **Standard 5:** Procedures for **responding to and reporting suspected child abuse**
- **Standard 6:** Strategies to identify and **reduce or remove risks** of child abuse
- **Standard 7:** Strategies to promote **child participation and empowerment**

All Victorian schools are required to comply with the Child Safe Standards.

Ministerial Order 870: Child Safe Standards - Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools outlines how the Standards apply in schools.



Principle of Inclusion

- The principle of inclusion requires schools to take account of the diversity of **all** children, but also specifically: 
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** children
- Children from **culturally and linguistically diverse** backgrounds
- Children with **disabilities**
- **Vulnerable** children.
- Schools must make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of these children in developing all child safety strategies, policies and processes.



Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

- Schools must:
 - Develop, implement, record, and monitor risk management strategies that:
 - Identify the risks of child abuse in the school environment and specify the actions the school will take to reduce or remove risks
 - Are **contextualised to the school**
 - Provide **annual guidance and training** to school council and school staff on child abuse.



Identifying and reducing risks of child abuse - tips

- Use the [Child Safety Risk Assessment Register template](#)
- Allocate a Child Safety Officer
- Update the risk register annually and/or if new risks are identified
- Actively implement mitigation strategies
- Risks don't have to be eliminated in all circumstances, just **mitigated**
- Assemble a team!



How do I fill in the Risk Register?

1

Meet with regional
child safe contact

2

Use the [Child
Safety Risk
Assessment
Register template](#)
as a starting point

3

Brainstorm risks
and mitigation
strategies

4

Complete and
contextualise the
template for your
own school



How do I
identify
risks?

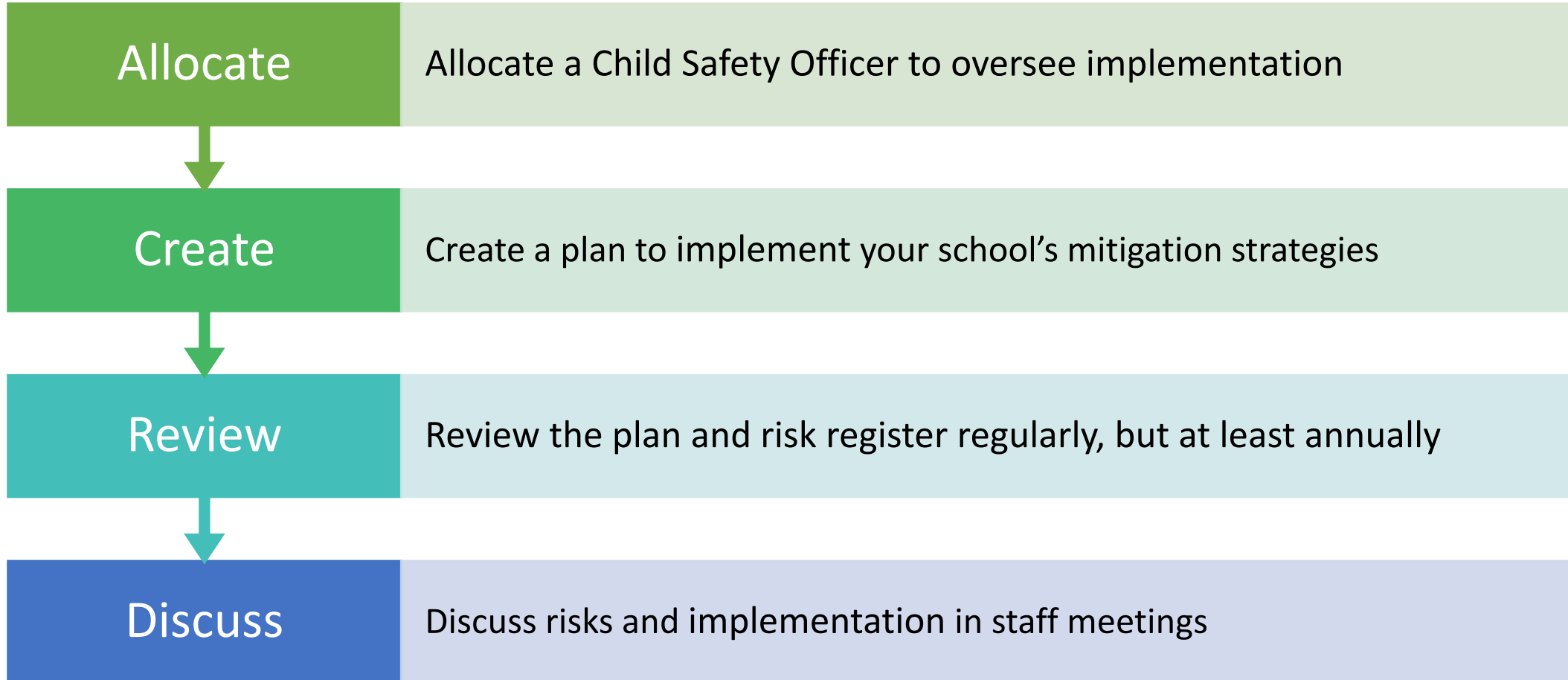


How do I identify risk mitigation strategies?

- Use risk mitigation strategies in the template where possible
- Consider how to reduce or remove the risks you have identified. This might include:
 - Having a policy/procedure
 - Training
 - Changing the circumstances around the risk (e.g. supervision, removing locks)
 - Stopping an activity altogether (if the risk is very high and no other options are available).
- Consider what the school is **already planning to do**, e.g. staff induction, or student sexuality and consent education.



How do I implement the risk mitigation strategies?



Questions?

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Guidance, templates and resources

[School Policy Templates Portal](#)

[PROTECT School Guidance](#)

Or email

risk.in.education@edumail.vic.gov.au for risk-related questions

child.safe.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au for Child Safe Standards questions

