OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Springside Kindergarten is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Springside Kindergarten has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Springside Kindergarten is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Springside Kindergarten has a **responsibility** to understand, identify and mitigate risks to the safety of children both individually and collectively, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all is at the forefront of all operations. We are committed to understanding the diverse circumstances of children and working to ensure this knowledge informs everything we do.

We acknowledge and **respect** the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and uphold that all children always feel and are safe. We share **optimism** that our environment supports and empowers children as it is fundamental to their ability to learn and develop.

Springside Kindergarten is committed to implementing ongoing **excellence** that reflects the latest research about harm prevention strategies for children and young people. In its planning, decision-making and operations Springside Kindergarten will;

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives, developing and sharing child friendly information and pathways for children to engage with the kindergarten
3. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues
4. Validate the children's feelings and promote a sense of belonging in the kindergarten environment
5. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
6. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount
7. Ensuring our online environment is used in accordance with our Code of Conduct, eSafety and child Safe environment and Wellbeing policy and practices.
8. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children
9. Communicate with the kinder, school and wider community about child safety and wellbeing operations
10. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and deter and prevent unsuitable people from working or volunteering at our kinder. We commit to ensuring our staff have the skills to keep the safety of the children at the centre of everything they do and ensure that all staff, contractors, volunteers and authorised persons understand and enact their responsibilities to support the safety of children
11. Respond to disclosures and allegations of abuse in a trauma informed way that removes the barriers to disclosures and manages the risks of further harm to children
12. Review and continually improve our practices to identify and take action to address behaviours and practices that place children at risk of abuse
13. Having clear policies and procedures to inform staff, volunteers, contractors and authorised persons of their obligations to report child safety concerns and processes to do so. We are committed to ensuring that our policies and procedures are clearly documented and accessible to all service users
14. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities
15. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
16. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers
17. Develop relationships with families where a strong culture of child safety is maintained
18. Ensure all staff, families, volunteers and personnel understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

Springside Kindergarten's CHILD SAFE OFFICER is Samantha Pascoe supported by the welfare team at Springside Primary