**STRUCTURE 2**

**CHILD SAFETY POLICY**

Nicholson Primary School embraces the values of ***Growth, Honesty & Trust, Respect, Connectedness, Inclusiveness and Fun.*** We aim to have students recognise their fullest potential through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values in an environment where they learn and grow to enjoy a productive, rewarding and fulfilling life. In support of this

***at Nicholson Primary School, we have a zero tolerance to child abuse.***

**Rationale**

All Victorian schools are required to have a child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety that details:

* the principles that will guide the school in developing policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe school environment; and
* the actions the school proposes to take to:
* demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school's adherence to its child safety policy;
* support, encourage and enable school staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters; and
* support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.
* Ensure that child safety is considered in the recruitment, selection and management of staff (includes contractors and volunteers)

Ministerial Order No. 870 (available at [www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe](http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe)) states that

Child abuse includes –

* Any act committed against a child involving –
* A sexual offence or
* An offence under section 49 B (2) of the *Crimes Act 1958* (grooming)
* The infliction, on a child, of –
* Physical violence or
* Serious emotional or psychological harm
* Serious neglect of a child.

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the whole school community as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.