



Promote Participation and empowerment of children

Description

Springhurst Primary School ensures children feel safe and comfortable in reporting concerns or allegations of abuse. Springhurst Primary School has simple and accessible processes that help children understand what to do if they want to report abuse, inappropriate behaviour or concerns for their safety.

All staff have an awareness of children's rights and adults' responsibilities regarding child abuse.

How Springhurst Primary School promotes participation and empowerment of children:

- We provide children with child-appropriate and accessible information about what child abuse is, their right to make decisions about their body and their privacy, that no one has a right to injure them, and how they can raise concerns about abuse. We have 'Life Education' van visit the school bi-annually, their programs include safety for students' issues.
- We ensure information and processes for reporting concerns are accessible to all children. For Example: We would ensure Aboriginal children were accepted when identifying as Aboriginal, and that staff and volunteers would understand appropriate responses to children identifying as Aboriginal.
- Encourage participation and empowerment of children in other organisational activities, such as organisational planning and decision making. For example – Student Leadership positions, Assembly presentations, Student Leadership Conferences, Kids' Council etc.

By successfully implementing these strategies Springhurst Primary School ensures:

- reporting procedures for when a child feels unsafe are accessible for all children
- children understand what child abuse is, and their rights (age appropriate)
- children understand how to report an allegation of abuse or concern for their safety to the organisation, a trusted adult and external bodies (for example, the police)
- children feel safe, empowered and taken seriously if they raise concerns
- children feel empowered to contribute to the organisation's understanding and treatment of child safety
- children's reports of concern are responded to appropriately
- staff understand how to empower children and encourage their participation.

This Policy was ratified by School Council in April 2019