

## Introduction

The King David School is committed to providing an environment that promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of children with diverse needs and/or backgrounds, and protects them from abuse, harm, neglect, and the threat of harm. The School has a zero tolerance of child abuse (in any form), and is committed to acting in students' best interests and keeping them safe from harm.

These guidelines have been created to ensure that students are made aware of their rights, including their right to be safe from harm and that they are provided with age-appropriate information about safe and respectful relationships.

## Students' Rights

The School believes that students have a defined set of inalienable rights. Students have the right to:

- Live unaffected by child abuse
- Learn in a safe, clean, non-threatening, non-intimidating environment.
- Be treated with respect, understanding and courtesy.
- Expect that their property is to be respected and secure.
- Feel secure in the school environment.
- Feel comfortable to discuss with staff, issues that affect them or others.

## Students' Responsibilities

Each part of the School needs to play their part in upholding these rights. The following guidelines help to define responsibilities of students. Other policies discuss the responsibilities of staff, parents and other people.

Each student is expected to:

- take all reasonable steps to promote the safety, wellbeing and welfare of your fellow classmates
- do all that you can to ensure that no student is excluded socially or discriminated against because they have a disability, are from a different culture, are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or speak a language other than English.
- tell a teacher if you see anyone treating a fellow student badly, or bullying them, or if you are concerned for their safety.
- tell a teacher if you suspect that a friend is being mistreated or neglected at home or at school.

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## Concerns about your safety (or other students)

The following are some examples of inappropriate behaviour of adults towards children. If you or another student witnesses such behaviour you should read the next section on how to raise a concern.

- an adult uses inappropriate language (swearing)
- an adult treats you differently to other children, offering you gifts or giving you special treatment
- an adult touches you unnecessarily and without your permission. From Year 5 upward, staff may not have physical contact with students apart from a handshake or a 'high five'. There are exceptions in some circumstances (e.g. first aid, Physical Education, Dance, Drama and Music ) where physical contact may be required to demonstrate something. In this case, the staff member should ask you first.
- an adult uses physical violence towards you or engages in rough physical play with you
- an adult talks about 'adult' things in your presence (for example, their personal private life)
- an adult makes sexually suggestive comments or gestures; makes comments about your body, or shows you sexually suggestive material or images.
- an adult expresses their personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in your presence
- an adult discriminates against you or another child because of their age, gender, culture, race, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- an adult invites you to meet outside of school hours and without permission from your parents.
- an adult staff member communicates with you via social media or personal phone/text/email contacts. The only communication from KDS staff should be via School email accounts.
- an adult staff member takes or publishes (including online) photos, movies or recordings of you without permission from your parents
- an adult staff member attends work whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

## Raising Concerns about Safety

If you have concerns about your safety, or the behaviour of others, it is important that you tell a trusted adult. This could be a parent or carer, a trusted teacher, a School Psychologist, or a School Child Safety Officer.

The School provides all students with information about child safety issues as part of its Keshar and Wellbeing programs and through annual briefings from the Vice-Principal (Student Wellbeing).

The School encourages students to raise child safety concerns about or at the School, including concerns about the behaviour of staff or other students.

There is signage around the School about Child Safety issues and an anonymous email address for students to seek help: **student-help@kds.vic.edu.au**

Students have multiple pathways to raise a concern, including informal and formal ways, an 'anonymous' way, and through external child advocacy or child safety organisations.

This might be done verbally, in writing, through electronic means (such as email), or indirectly (such as in written assignments, in artworks or in any other way).

Students are welcome to speak with a teacher, school psychologist or member of the School's leadership team.

***Our Staff are committed to ensuring that all students feel empowered to speak up and be heard and will take all concerns raised by students seriously and ensure that the student receives ongoing support.***

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## What should I do if I think something is not OK?

Students have the right to:

Live unaffected by child abuse	Feel secure in the school environment	Be treated with respect, understanding and courtesy
Learn in a safe, clean, non-threatening, non-intimidating environment	Feel comfortable to discuss with staff, issues that affect them or others	Expect that their property is to be respected and secure

If you feel that any of these rights has been affected here is what you should do.

### Tell the right person.

This might be done:

- verbally – ask to speak to someone
- in writing – leave someone a note
- through electronic means (such as email), you could use [student-help@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:student-help@kds.vic.edu.au)
  - indirectly (such as in written assignments, in artworks or in any other way)

### Who is the right person?

Parents are often the best person to speak to about any worries you may have. Students are welcome to speak with any trusted adult, at school this could be a teacher, school psychologist or a member of the school's leadership team.

The School is committed to ensuring that you can speak up and be heard. We will take all concerns seriously and ensure that you receive the support you need.

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