



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL

Safeguarding Children & Young People

Our commitment

At The Hutchins School we consider the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people to be our highest priority. We strive to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through our Safeguarding Children Policy.

Our Safeguarding Children Policy has been adopted by the Board of The Hutchins School. It underpins a set of policies and procedures in relation to the protection of children and young people which guide:

- the screening and recruitment of our people;
- the behaviour of our people towards children and young people;
- the induction and training of our people about safeguarding children and young people;
- our open and effective communication with children and young people and their parents;
- our responses to the abuse and neglect of children if it occurs; and
- our maintenance of a safeguarding culture in the organisation.

Our people are required to:

- undergo an extensive screening process including a National Criminal Records Check and/or a Working with Vulnerable People Registration;
- behave professionally and with care towards children and young people including not acting outside the boundaries of their duties or using their position with the organisation to solicit work with or initiate contact with children and young people who are students of our organisation ;
- understand the important responsibility they have to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse, bullying and exploitation either by our people or that occurs outside the scope of our operations and services; and
- create and maintain a child safe culture.

The full Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy is available [here](#).

The Hutchins School are dedicated to protecting the children and young people in our community and have undertaken training and policy development with the Australian Childhood Foundation Safeguarding Children and Young People Program.

Responding to child abuse reports and allegations

We consider any form of child abuse including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, family violence, grooming or neglect as intolerable under any circumstances. We have a legal, moral and mission driven responsibility to protect children and young people from harm and to ensure that any incident of suspected child abuse is promptly and appropriately dealt with. Our people are required to report suspected child abuse to their direct supervisor/manager and Child Safety Services or the Tasmanian Police. The Hutchins School will co-operate with the child protection authorities and police and other agencies as required by law.

The Hutchins School Practice & Behaviour Guidelines

Our people and volunteers are required to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct towards children and young people. We have developed Practice & Behaviour Guidelines to identify and prevent behaviour that may be harmful to the children and young people in our care.

The document covers:

Adhering to professional role boundaries

Supporting a positive culture

Supervision

Physical contact

Sexual misconduct

Use of electronic communication

Social media

Photographs

Transport

Overnight stays and sleeping arrangements

Change room arrangements

Use, possession or supply of alcohol or drugs

Uniform or identity card

Gift giving

The link for the complete Practice and Behaviour Guidelines is available [here](#).

Version 1: July 2018