



PENINSULA

GRAMMAR

REPORTING A CHILD ABUSE CONCERN

RATIONALE FOR REPORTING A CHILD ABUSE CONCERN

Child abuse situations can be very complex, not only from the perspective of ascertaining whether abuse has occurred but also in understanding what steps to take to protect a child.

'CHILD ABUSE' INCLUDES:

- Sexual offences;
- Grooming;
- Physical violence;
- Serious emotional or psychological harm;
- Serious neglect; and
- Family violence, or exposure to family violence.

It is important to remember at all times that the safety and welfare of the child are paramount.

Therefore, if you have a concern that a child may be experiencing abuse, whether or not you have formed a belief on reasonable grounds that the abuse has occurred, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of the School's Child Protection Officers. The School's Child Protection Officers will be able to assist you in clarifying your concerns and managing the next steps. They will also ensure that the Principal is immediately informed of your concerns.

Peninsula Grammar has appointed the people listed below as the School's Child Protection Officers. Each Child Protection Officer is available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Child Protection and Safety Policy and the Child Protection Program.

Child Protection Officers are selected based on a number of considerations, namely:

- Their personal attitude, experiences and beliefs, for example, a person who is non-judgmental, calm, resilient and demonstrates a high degree of integrity and respect for confidentiality;
- Their role within the School, for example, a person who has seniority and experience working with complex student and family issues at the School and who is readily accessible and available to all members of the School community; and
- Their personal profile within the School, for example, a person who is approachable, who students and staff trust and who is willing and able to respond to issues personally and sensitively.

The School's Child Protection Officers are your first point of contact for reporting child protection issues within the School. They receive special training that allows them to deal with child protection concerns both sensitively and effectively.

Please note that reporting the matter to one of our Child Protection Officers does not release you from other legal and regulatory reporting obligations you may have.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger, the Police should be contacted on 000.

SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS - 2019

| NAME | POSITION | CONTACT No | EMAIL |
|------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| Peter Ford | Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing | 9788 7718 | pford@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Lyn Bylart | Head of Wellbeing | 9788 7823 | lbylart@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Louise Nicholls-Easley | Head of Junior Years | 9788 7831 | lnichollseasley@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Muriel Bakker | Head of Middle Years | 9788 7723 | mbakker@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Josie Monro | Head of Pre Senior Year 9 | 9788 7790 | jmonro@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Sharyn Curtis | Head of Senior Years | 9788 7638 | scurtis@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Wendy Lawson | Head of Heather Reilly House | 9788 7807 | wlawson@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Kristoffer Wheeler | Deputy Head of Boys' Boarding | 9788 7727 | kwheeler@pgs.vic.edu.au |
| Heather Evans | Head of Department of Learning Support and Indigenous Student Coordinator | 9788 7791 | hevans@pgs.vic.edu.au |

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OUR SENIOR CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Peninsula Grammar has appointed Peter Ford as the School's Senior Child Protection Officer. The Senior Child Protection Officer has an important role in the promotion and maintenance of our child protection culture at the School.

The Senior Child Protection Officer is identified in our publicly available **Child Protection and Safety Policy** as the contact for the wider community when they have child protection concerns relating to the School.

The Senior Child Protection Officer is contactable by phone on 9788 7718 or by emailing pford@pgs.vic.edu.au.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy is to be reviewed, approved and endorsed annually.

Last review August 2019.

Review is to be undertaken prior to August 2020.



ENQUIRIES

Please direct all enquiries to:

Peter Ford DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - STUDENT WELLBEING

03 9788 7718 | f: 03 9787 7646 | pford@pgs.vic.edu.au