Safe environments benchmarks

Healthy policies

1. A whole school safe environments policy is in place.
   a) The policy addresses prevention of injury and promotion of personal safety, including respectful relationships, bullying, discrimination and harassment.
   b) The policy clearly identifies referral pathways and procedures where child safety issues are identified.
   c) Staff, families and students are involved in guiding safety policy and practice.
   d) Families and staff are provided with information about policy requirements.
   e) The diversity of the school and the community is considered when developing and implementing this policy.
   f) The policy is cross referenced with, and complements other relevant policies (e.g. mental health and wellbeing, physical activity, sun protection).
   g) The policy complements and reinforces the school's occupational health and safety policy.
   h) The policy can be stand alone or incorporated into a whole school health and wellbeing policy.

2. The school has a staff health and wellbeing policy that promotes safety.

Healthy physical environment

3. The school provides a physical environment which is inclusive and safe.
   a) A welcoming and inclusive physical environment is created which reflects the diversity and interests of the students, families and staff.
   b) The school provides a warm and welcoming space for students, families and staff to meet informally to discuss private matters.
   c) Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, facilities, play equipment and resources are safe and enable access and active participation for all students.
   d) The school ensures the use of appropriate and properly fitted protective equipment during physical activity to reduce risk of injury.
   e) The physical environment enables the appropriate supervision of students and visitors to the school.
   f) The school takes action to minimise hazards from road traffic, particularly during pick up and drop off periods and other high risk times.
Healthy social environment

4. The school provides a safe, inclusive and empowering social environment.
   a) The school leadership and staff promote a culture of respect, fairness and equality.
   b) A sense of belonging and connectedness is created through inclusive and participatory practices.
   c) The school encourages and values the contribution of students, families and staff to a positive school environment.
   d) Respectful and supportive relationships are fostered between students, staff and families.
   e) The school implements strategies to promote positive and responsible behaviour and to prevent and respond to bullying, discrimination and harassment.

5. Staff and families recognise they are role models and are encouraged to demonstrate behaviours that promote safety.

Learning and skills

6. Social and emotional learning, safety education and related health messages are incorporated across the curriculum from foundation to year 6.
   a) The school provides a curriculum that actively engages and builds students’ self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision making, self-management and relationship skills.
   b) Positive relationships are promoted through collaborative group activities which encourage inclusion, team work and cooperation.
   c) The school provides learning activities which actively engage, challenge and support students to test limits, and recognise and respond to hazardous situations.
   d) Sporting activities are designed to ensure the safe participation of all students.

7. Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote safe environments and behaviours.

Engaging children, young people, staff and families

8. Families, students and staff are key partners in developing and supporting safety initiatives.
   a) Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies on a regular basis to support safety in the school and at home.
   b) Students are engaged in developing and implementing safety initiatives via junior school council, student action teams or other representative structures.
   c) Students are encouraged to identify safety issues and given opportunities to be involved in improving and looking after the school grounds.
   d) Families are encouraged to be involved in safety initiatives at school.
   e) Staff are encouraged to develop competencies to facilitate engagement of families and students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Community partnerships

9. Staff are encouraged to work with local health professionals, services and organisations to increase their capacity to deliver safety initiatives and promote safe environments.
   a) The school works with local government and other agencies to minimise safety hazards in the surrounding area.
   b) Links are established with local health professionals, services and other organisations including emergency services and child safety agencies to support safety initiatives.
   c) Information about child safety, safe active travel and emergency services is easily accessible to students, families and staff.