Safeguarding Children and Young People Commitment Statement

POLICY DATES: JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITMNET STATEMENT			
Formulated	January 2025		
Implemented	March 2025	Reviewed	
Next Review Due	MARCH 2028		
POLICY AUTHORISATION			
Principal	Daniel Coote	Signature	
Chairman	Colin Mulder	Signature	

At John Calvin School, we believe every child and young person has the right to be safe, respected, and included, not only by adults but also by other students. We are committed to creating a culture of mutual respect, kindness, and inclusion, where every child feels valued, heard, and supported in their relationships with peers and adults alike.

This policy supports the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the Tasmanian Child and Youth Safe Standards, which highlight the importance of creating safe environments that promote positive peer relationships and protect children from peer-based harm, such as bullying, exclusion, or coercion.

The Rights of Children at John Calvin School

At our school, we make sure every student:

- feels safe, secure, and cared for by both staff and fellow students;
- is treated with respect, fairness, and kindness by adults and peers;
- has the right to enjoy friendships and positive relationships that are free from bullying, teasing, or exclusion;
- is encouraged to speak up if someone—including another student—is making them feel unsafe or uncomfortable;
- knows that if they are being hurt emotionally or physically by a peer or adult, it is always okay to tell someone;
- will be taken seriously and supported if they experience or witness peer-based harm, including online or outside of school;
- is protected by a zero tolerance approach to bullying, harassment, or any harmful behaviour between students;
- is supported to resolve conflicts respectfully and build healthy peer relationships through positive role modelling, school programs, and staff guidance.

Participation and Peer Relationships in School Life

When participating in school life—whether in class, at events, or during play—every child has the right to:

- feel safe and included in all group settings;
- build positive, respectful friendships;
- be free from bullying, teasing, exclusion, peer pressure, or unsafe behaviour from other children;
- participate in activities that build empathy, teamwork, and respect among peers;
- receive guidance and support when learning to manage conflict or differences with others;
- be listened to when they speak up about concerns involving another student;
- learn how to respect boundaries, value others' perspectives, and help build a safe environment for all.

Our Commitment to Child and Youth Safety

At John Calvin School, all staff and volunteers are committed to:

- upholding the National Principles and Tasmanian Standards in every area of school life;
- fostering a culture where peer-to-peer safety and respect are taught, modelled, and expected;
- providing clear behaviour expectations that promote kindness, cooperation, and inclusion;
- responding swiftly and appropriately to incidents of bullying, peer abuse, or exclusion;
- involving children and young people in discussions about safety, respect, and fairness;
- creating opportunities for students to contribute ideas about how we can keep each other safe;

ensuring all children, regardless of background or identity, are equally valued and included

If You Feel Unsafe or Upset—Tell Someone

If another student or adult is making you feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or unhappy, you have the right to:

- talk to a teacher, principal, or staff member you trust;
- speak to your parent or carer;
- ask for support if you see a friend being mistreated;
- know that what you feel is real and important, and that we will help you.

We are here to listen to you, protect you, and make sure every child feels safe in their relationships—with adults and with other children