

Child Safe Communication Strategies

Summary Statement:

Holmes Grammar is exclusively a senior school for both international and domestic students. Its core values are directly connected to its multicultural population, where respect for others is a key value in ensuring that students work together accepting their responsibility in creating a harmonious learning environment.

Holmes Grammar School is a senior secondary school providing education for students at both the Year 11 & 12 level. In 2021, Holmes Secondary College has a diverse range of nationalities with all enrolled students on International Student Visas. A large percentage are from Non- English-Speaking Backgrounds (NESB) and central to their study was English as an Additional Language (EAL). Many of the students joined our senior secondary programme from an intensive English language course, which for many was provided to them by the school prior to them joining either VCE or VCE Vocational Major.

Therefore, contextually it understands then the critical nature of communication to its culturally and linguistically diverse range of students and their families. The school ensures that they remain well informed of their rights and responsibilities pertaining to all aspects of their life in Australia and their enrolment at the school. Furthermore, this information is conveyed to other stakeholders including Homestay families and Student Support Assist.

With this in mind, the School Council has implemented a number of measures in which to clearly and actively communicate child safety and their right to feel safe and protected from abuse.

These measures included:

- Explanation of Child Safe at formal Orientation
- Child Safe Policy on Website
- Child Safe Policy outlined in Student Study Planner (Diary)
- Child Safe Posters in all classrooms
- Pastoral Programme – Homeroom Discussion via Feeling Safe material
- Policy and Code of Conduct distributed to Homestay Providers

Version Control and Accountable Officers

It is the joint responsibility of the Implementation Officer and Responsible Officer to ensure compliance with this strategy.

Responsible Officer	School Principal		
Implementation Officers	Principal/All school staff/Homestay Hosts/Parent Nominated Guardians		
Review Date	25/07/2025		
Approved by			
School Council			
Associated Documents			
Child Safety Policy - Grammar School Key Documents Development and Review Policy and Procedure Safe Environment Policy and Procedure - Grammar School Student Study Planner Holmes Grammar School Staff Manual			
Version	Brief Description of the Changes	Date Approved	Effective Date
1	New strategy	12/08/2021	12/08/2021
2	Change all references to VCAL to VCE Vocational Major	22/11/2023	22/11/2023