

Identify and respond to student-to-student abuse

Provide the right support at the right time

At all times, you must:

- **Respond to an emergency** – Call 000. Preserve evidence. Keep students safe.
- **Adapt to changing circumstances** – Be flexible. Repeat/take different actions.
- **Document your actions.**

Identify child abuse

All staff

You can identify abuse by:

- witnessing an incident
- receiving a disclosure
- observing:
 - physical or behavioural signs
 - something concerning online or on a device.

If you form a reasonable belief that a student has been, or is at risk of being abused (including harmful sexual behaviour), inform school leadership.

Information Sharing staff/Child Link users

- Request information from Information Sharing Entities or check Child Link.

School leadership/nominated staff

- **Report**
- **Support** and **Refer**

You may need to take actions in support and refer at the same time.

Harmful sexual behaviour

Contact local sexual assault services for support and advice.

Report abuse to authorities

If you believe a crime against a child has been committed, report to:

- Victoria Police
- DE Incident Support and Operations Centre.

If the student is under the age of criminal responsibility/not a Victoria Police matter, report to:

- DE Incident Support and Operations Centre.

For harmful online content, report to:

- esafety.gov.au/report

Engage parents/carers

- If Victoria Police are involved, seek their clearance on what can be shared before you contact parents/carers.
- Contact parents/carers as soon as possible (same day preferred).

Harmful sexual behaviour

- If Victoria Police are not involved, you can contact your local sexual assault service for advice to engage parents/carers.

Support students through your school

- Support impacted student/s.
- Engage students and parents/carers to find the best support.
- Tailor to diverse needs.
- Use information sharing.
- Continue as long as necessary.

Refer to community services

- Engage student/s and parents/carers to find and connect with suitable services.
- Use information sharing.

Harmful sexual behaviour

- Contact your local sexual assault service for support for students and parents/carers.
- If a student is using harmful sexual behaviour and their parents/carers are not willing or able to help the student connect to a service, call Child Protection.

Key contacts

Child Protection

8:45am to 5pm, Mon-Fri

North 1300 598 521

South 1300 555 526

East 1300 360 452

West 1300 360 462

After hours 13 12 78

DE Incident Support and Operations Centre

→ 1800 126 126

→ eduSafe Plus

Victoria Police

→ 000 (emergencies)

→ 131 444 or local police station (non-emergencies)

eSafetyCommissioner

→ esafety.gov.au/report

Local sexual assault service

