

MAV Child Safe Statement of Commitment.

Version: 3: 13 September 2022 Scheduled review date: July 2024 or as required.

The Mathematical Association of Victoria (MAV) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

MAV has zero tolerance for child abuse.

MAV is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard, and they have agency about decisions that affect their lives.

Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

Child safety is a shared responsibility. Every person involved in MAV has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

MAV recognises that some children and young people are more vulnerable than others, and commits to providing the care and services required to support them and their families, and to ensure their safety when involved in any and all MAV services and activities.

MAV takes proactive steps to identify and manage any risk of harm to students in our environment. When child safety concerns are raised or identified, we treat these seriously and respond promptly and thoroughly.

MAV is committed to regularly reviewing our child safe practices, and seeking input from students, families, staff, and volunteers and other MAV stakeholders to inform our ongoing strategies.

Principles for child safety.

In its planning, decision-making and operations MAV will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Promote positive relationships between students and adults and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.
3. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
4. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
5. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;

6. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children when appropriate, including for both physical and online environments;
7. Implement rigorous risk management and employment practices, engaging only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff, contractor and volunteer supervision;
8. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
9. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
10. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
11. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers as appropriate.
12. Strive for continual improvement that is responsive to emerging thinking, evidence and practice, so as to eliminate the potential for abuse to occur.

Context:

MAV is a not for profit that provides services to children.

Primarily an association for educators, MAV provides events for students from primary and secondary schools, these include but are not limited to:

- A maths camp for year 9/10 students
- STEM and careers focused events for secondary students
- Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) revision program
- Mathematics games days, and family maths nights
- Mathematics Talent Quest including an awards ceremony
- Other activities as they are planned from time to time

The MAV also works in schools independently as consultants, and under funding from parties including the Victoria Department of Education and Training to support teachers. This includes coaching, mentoring and team, teaching, where there is contact of consultants and staff with students in the classroom, at schools or potentially other venues.

MAV staff and if applicable, volunteers or contractors, attending our events or working on behalf of MAV have a current Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration and/or current Working with Children Check.

Students who attend our events should be accompanied by the required number of teaching or support staff from their school when appropriate, who must have a Working with Children Check or Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration. In this case the direct responsibility and duty of care for the children lies with the supervising school staff. This does not relieve MAV staff or representatives from their responsibilities under this policy.

MAV has a Child Protection Policy and Procedures, and A Child Safety Code of Conduct. MAV undertakes risk assessments for its child inclusive activities.

References:

Commission for children and young people: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/>

Department of Human Services <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/child-safe-standards>

Victorian Department of Education Child safe information:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/childprotection/Pages/default.aspx>

Human Rights Australia: <https://childsafesafe.humanrights.gov.au/>

Our Promises to you....

Respect	<i>We will treat everyone equally no matter where they are from or who they are. We will make sure everyone feels included and welcome and we will expect you to do the same.</i>
Inform	<i>We will give you information about your physical, emotional and online safety, and what to do if you feel unsafe.</i>
Give you a voice	<i>We will make sure there are ways for you to give us feedback, have a say or be involved.</i>
Help	<i>We will listen and act on what you tell us. We will help you with your hopes and dreams as well as your worries and fears. If we are unable to help we will support you to find the help you need.</i>
Trust	<i>You can trust that we will care about your needs and feelings and that we will support you.</i>
Safety	<i>We will make our place, events or activities happy, welcoming and comfortable for you.</i>
Accountability	<i>We will make sure our people are well trained, and that we are continually getting better at what we do to ensure you are supported by people you can trust.</i>