

# Safe Environments

A case study from Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School

**Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School is a health promoting school in Ocean Grove. They share their story of how they created Safe Environments in their school using the Healthy Together Achievement Program Framework.**

Our Lady Star of the Sea recognises the need to address Safe Environments as an important part of having a healthy, growing school. Safe Environments enable children to develop positive relationships with others.

*Safe Environments aims to address a variety of areas including physical safety, mental wellbeing, inclusive and empowering social environments, social, physical, spiritual, intellectual and emotional learning and engaging families, health students and staff in developing and supporting safety issues.*

## Objectives

Together the staff met and identified Safe Environments as a priority action area for their school. This saw the development of policies addressing Staff Health and Wellbeing and Safe Environments, with the aim of promoting positive relationships.



*"We received an excellent level of resource support from Healthy Together Geelong.." Staff*

## Actions

- Introduced a 'friendship seat', footy card trading and more activities in the passive play area
- Provided a space for a psychologist to work in our school three mornings a week for parents, children and staff
- Communication to parents via newsletter in regards to KidsMatter and wellbeing information
- Trained staff in Restorative Practices
- Employed a learning support officer for personalised learning experiences
- Family working bees to keep the grounds safe and inclusive
- Family workshop nights with parent and child activities to build relationships
- Being an eSmart school with online safety education
- Implemented 'Better Buddies' framework to reduce bullying
- Encouraging participation in community events like the Italian poetry competition, the drama festival and "I sea, I care"

*Our Lady Star of the Sea utilised several Healthy Together resources including professional learning opportunities, posters and templates for policies and action plans.*

## Outcomes

- Students are more engaged and happy
- Parents and children are accessing the psychologist for support
- The friendship seat is being used as a safe place for issues and support in the playground
- Staff were able to devise scope and sequence for social and emotional learning.



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