



Association of German
Teachers of Victoria Inc.

Supporting teaching and learning since 1979

AGTV Child Safe Policy 2023

About the AGTV

The Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. A0024716J (AGTV) provides services to support teachers and students of German. These services are organised and coordinated by an elected Committee with the support of members of the association, volunteers and contracted personnel. From time to time, the AGTV collaborates with personnel from other organisations in the delivery or promotion of services and opportunities for teachers and students.

Our commitment to child safety

The AGTV respects all children and young people.

The AGTV has strategies in place to develop a culture that facilitates participation and is responsive to the input of children and young people.

The AGTV is committed to child safety and has zero tolerance of child abuse.

The AGTV Inc. aims to provide child-safe environments, programs and services. All decisions regarding the welfare and protection of children and young people are made in their best interest.

The AGTV -

- actively works to listen to and empower all children and young people,
- has systems to protect children and young people from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently in line with the AGTV's policies and procedures, and obligations of a registered Student Exchange Organisation with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA),
- has a legal obligation to contact authorities when we are worried about a child or young person's safety, which we follow rigorously.

If anyone believes a child or young person is at immediate risk of abuse, phone 000.

Children

This policy is intended to empower children who are involved in services provided or promoted by our association. We listen to their views, respect what they have to say, and encourage them to report behaviour that makes them feel unsafe.

We promote diversity and tolerance in our association and respect people from all cultural backgrounds. The AGTV -

- promotes the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and young people and their families,
- promotes the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children and young people,
- promotes safe and equal participation in our services of all children and young people regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, disability or family background.

In most cases, services provided by the AGTV Inc. for children and young people involve the cooperation of teachers in schools and/or the students' families, who share responsibility for the safety of children, including events for students and the AGTV-BJR student exchange.

Members and volunteers

The AGTV ensures all members and volunteers are aware of appropriate behaviour with children, and young people and all are required to follow our child-safe policy, processes and practices.

Committee members are required to have either current VIT registration or a Working With Children Check.

Most members are working in schools and are registered teachers with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT).

Members or volunteers aged over 18 without VIT registration, who are involved in delivering or supporting services for children provided by the AGTV, or who will come in extended contact with children through our services, are required to prove a current Working with Children Check and to become aware of the child-safe policy, processes and practices.

- www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

AGTV-BJR student exchange

The Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. (AGTV) is a registered Student Exchange Organisation (SEO) with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA)

The Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. (AGTV) is committed to child safety and actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of students. All members, volunteers and contracted personnel are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm, in accordance with their legal obligations including child safe standards. The AGTV has a Child Safety Code of Conduct consistent with the obligations of a Student Exchange Organisation registered with the Victorian Qualifications and Assessment Authority (VRQA).

- VRQA State Registered ID: 1296

The AGTV facilitates a reciprocal exchange program in Victoria with the Bayerischer Jugending (BJR - Bavarian Youth Council) in Bavaria, Germany. The BJR is a public commissioned organisation by the Bavarian state government body providing services for young people including worldwide student exchanges.

The AGTV and BJR are committed to providing child-safe environments for students and their families and both organisations implement and regularly review processes and practices to safeguard children and young people and to comply with the requirements of VRQA registration.

- www.vrqa.vic.gov.au

All people directly involved with the exchange over 18 must provide proof of a Working With Children Check or current VIT Registration.

Risk management

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is our primary concern.

In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, the AGTV proactively manages risks of abuse to children and young people.

We have risk management strategies to identify, assess, and take steps to protect children and young people in physical and online environments and to comply with legal obligations.

We record all allegations of abuse and safety concerns using our risk assessment documentation.

All records are securely stored.

Allegations, concerns and complaints

All allegations from children and young people will be taken seriously.

The AGTV will inform children and young people with whom we are directly involved will be told how to report they feel unsafe or at risk.

Everyone has a responsibility to report an allegation of abuse if there is a reasonable belief that an incident took place.

Anyone who believes a child or young person is at immediate risk of abuse, phone 000.

Anyone involved in an AGTV event or service for children and young people who has a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred or observe or are aware of inappropriate behaviour **must report the incident -**

- to the person in charge of an event or service, **and**
- to the President president@agtv.vic.edu.au or Secretary secretary@agtv.vic.edu.au of the AGTV.

Factors contributing to reasonable belief may be:

- a child states they or someone they know has been abused or cyberbullied, noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves,
- behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed,
- someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it,
- observing suspicious behaviour.

Privacy

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved, whether they be members, volunteers, parents or children, unless there is a risk to someone's safety and/or to comply with legal obligations. We have safeguards and practices in place to ensure any personal information is protected. Everyone is entitled to know how this information is recorded, what will be done with it, and who will have access to it.

Regular review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if required. We will ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute.

Developed using VRQA guidelines and Child Safe Standards <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/>