



# CURRAJONG STATE SCHOOL

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## DANIEL MORCOMBE CHILD SAFETY CURRICULUM

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Throughout this semester, our school will be implementing the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* with students in Years 1-6. The curriculum is based on principles of best practice in child safety education and centres around three key messages: Recognise, React and Report. Through a series of lessons, students will learn how to recognise, react and report when they are unsafe or find themselves in situations that can have a significant detrimental effect on their physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing.

Information about the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* can be found at [www.education.qld.gov.au/child-safety-curriculum](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/child-safety-curriculum).

Please find attached a parent flyer that explains each of the key messages (recognise, react and report) in further detail.

### Parent information session

An information session about the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* will be held for parents of students in Years 1-6 on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm in the library. The information session will include a short presentation and conclude by 6:30pm.

If you plan to attend our parent information session, **please RSVP by 9<sup>th</sup> August** by contacting the office and leaving your name and your child's year level. We understand that this time may not suit everyone. If you are unable to attend the parent session, information about the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* is attached or can be found on the website link above.

Yours Sincerely,

Kimberley Price  
Head of Curriculum/Pedagogy

Anthony Ryan  
Principal

# Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum

## RECOGNISE

The first key safety message of the curriculum is **recognise**. Recognise is about being aware of your environment.

Children, young people and adults can all learn to take notice of what is happening around them to help keep themselves safe. Everyone can use clues, such as the things we see, hear, smell or feel to help protect us from harm and keep ourselves safe. Clues can be simple things that warn us about a danger, e.g. hearing a fire alarm or seeing smoke, that prompt us to **react**. We can also use clues to prepare for potentially unsafe situations, e.g. if we are walking alone at night, then we try to use a well-lit route and avoid secluded lanes or parks.

When we **recognise** that there might be a safety problem we can take steps to move away or reduce the risk or develop strategies that can help keep us safe. For instance, if you are in a busy environment such as the Ekka or a local event where there are big crowds, you might consider what you and your child could do if you became separated. Strategies could include: going to a highly visible pre-determined meeting spot; writing your phone number on a card and placing it in your child's pocket; identifying who your child could approach if they become lost, e.g. police, staff at a booth.

## REACT

Our safety lessons will now be focusing on the second safety message: **react**.

When children **recognise** that they are in an unsafe situation, we encourage them to think about what they could do to be safe again. They will have opportunities to think about ways to **react** using real-life scenarios. Our students will also learn that breaking the rules (e.g. saying no to an adult who is behaving inappropriately) is sometimes necessary so that they can become safe again.

Please take the time to talk with your children about what they have been learning about safety and, in particular, the ways they could **react** if they are unsafe to make themselves safe again. Talking with your child about ways to stay safe will help them to develop life-long safety skills.

## REPORT

The final key message of the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* is **report**. This means that when children or young people have been in a situation that is unsafe that they are taught to **report** what has happened to an adult. Even if a child has been able to make themselves safe, it is vital that they still report what has happened. Adults need to know about unsafe situations so that some action can be taken to help the child be safe again or ensure it doesn't happen again.

Students involved in the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* will be encouraged to make a list of adult safety helpers. These are adults the children and young people nominate whom they can talk to when they are feeling unsafe or have experienced an unsafe situation or feel they are at risk of something that may cause them harm. This list will include a selection of adults who live in and outside the home.

**Report** also includes telling an adult about unsafe or inappropriate incidents which may occur when children or young people are online. This might occur when surfing the net or using social media sites like Facebook and twitter, and can include cyberbullying, viewing or receiving inappropriate images or messages or communicating with unknown contacts.

It is important that the key safety messages of the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*: **Recognise**, **React** and **Report** are reinforced, both at school and home. I encourage you, wherever possible, to talk with your child about safety to help them stay safe now and in the future.