

The holistic approach to child protection.



ישיבת אהלי יוסף יצחק ליובאוויטש בית רבקה
Yeshivah-Beth Rivkah Colleges *Educating for Life*

At Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges, our goal is that **all** children in our community should be safe at all times. We employ absolute best practice and are committed to ensuring the safety of the most vulnerable members of the community – our children.

We believe it is most effective to approach Child Protection from multiple perspectives:

- 1. Staff*
- 2. Students*
- 3. Parents*
- 4. Community*



Together we can create an environment in which: children are empowered, **parents** are appropriately protective and foster independence, school staff are **vigilant**, and we partner with all available communal and government agencies and **resources** to prevent and deal with abuse.

It takes only one person to commit an act of abuse, but a community to **prevent** it. The close working partnership between the school and the parent body is **vital**. The school adopts a leadership role by prioritising child safety, providing **training** programs and ensuring effective policies to prevent, and procedures to **deal with** issues should they arise.

1. Staff

At Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges we employ best practice and procedures with all our staff.

Staff Screening:

Our YBR staff are well screened. All teaching, administrative and auxiliary staff including contractors, groundsmen and cleaners, are subject to a Working With Children's Check before being offered employment.

Child Protection Policy, Practices and Procedures

- Staff at YBR Colleges are all required to follow strict Child Protection Practices and Procedures
- The YBR Child First/Child Protection Policy mandates that situations are dealt with promptly and thoroughly, and are brought to the attention of Senior Staff who have a close working relationship with the relevant authorities.
- Operating procedures across YBR Colleges, from our pre-schools right through to our Secondary Schools, do not allow students and staff to work in enclosed 1:1 settings. Open and visible learning spaces and/or multiple staff presence are standard practice across our campuses.
- Professional bodies such as VRQA, DHS, Victoria Police, Independent Legal Experts and Rabbinic Authorities have approved, commended and been highly impressed with the YBR Child Protection Policies, Practices and Procedures. Six local schools have modelled their own policies and practices based on the YBR model.
- All staff are in-serviced a minimum of twice a year in the school policies and procedures and the most up to date Child Protection research and practices.
- All staff have recently completed the DEECD child protection e-learning module.
- Our Youth Workers have undergone the Safeguarding Children Program delivered by the Australian Childhood Foundation, Protecting Children.



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2. Students

Overall YBR Staff are well equipped to protect our children. They are vigilant and highly skilled in Child Protection practices and feel confident that should anything occur, they will be supported through the process of ensuring that the child's safety is paramount and that the relevant authorities and professional bodies will be involved.

STAFF - *How are they prepared?*

Screening

Policy, practice and procedures

Training and vigilance

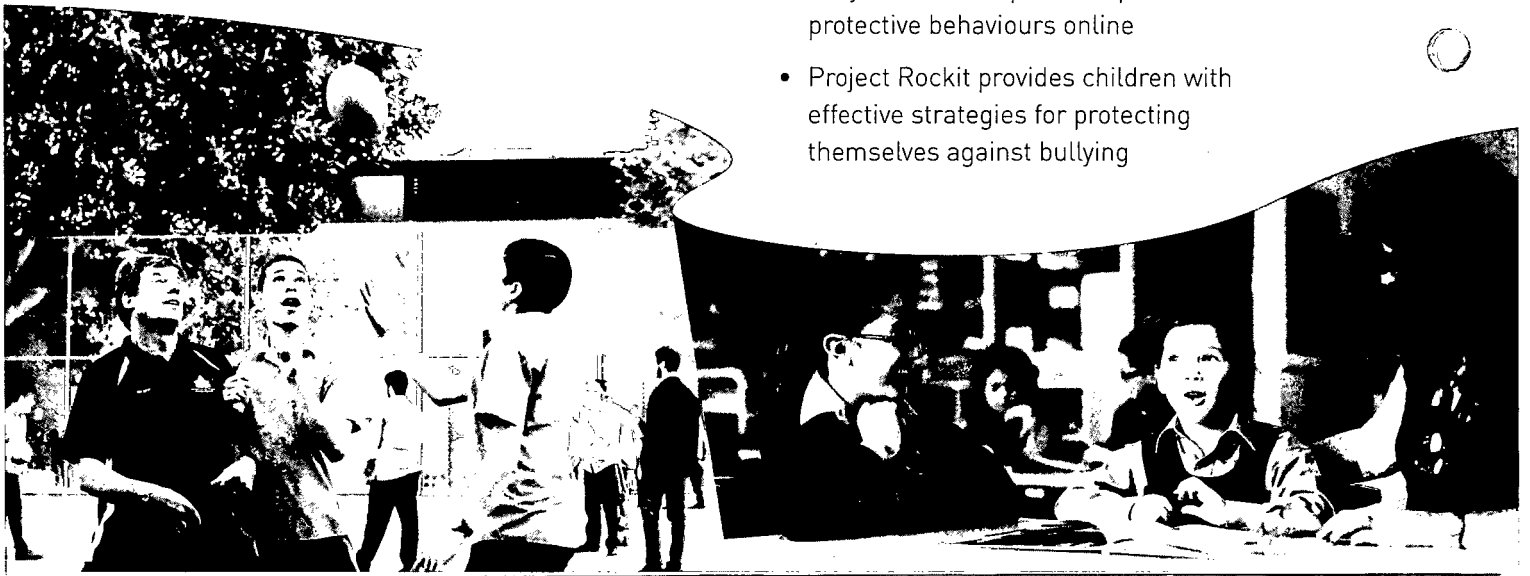
Support

Children who are equipped with the knowledge of safety behaviours and are empowered with protective language are more resilient and are less likely to become victims of abuse. Nevertheless, **it is always, and will always be the responsibility of the protective adults in their environment** to uphold their utmost safety.

Educating and empowering children reduces abuse but it is definitely not enough to prevent it entirely. YBR runs a series of age appropriate RESILIENCY and 'PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR' programs.

Resiliency Programs:

- The "Bounceback" program empowers children to not give in to peer pressure, and to stand up for what is right
- Cybersafety imbues children with the values of cybercitizenship and empowers them with protective behaviours online
- Project Rockit provides children with effective strategies for protecting themselves against bullying



3. Parents

Protective Behaviour Programs:

- "Say No, Run Away, Tell an Adult": Teams of staff have been trained by Debbie Gross, Director of the Jerusalem Crisis Centre for Women and Children. They conduct 'Protective Behaviour' Workshops with all K-6 students twice a year.
- Students also participate in workshops where they learn about 'good touch bad touch', 'no secrets', 'my body is mine' and 'if something makes me uncomfortable I don't need to put up with it'

STUDENTS - *What do they learn?*

Empower with knowledge

Foster resilience

Train in protective behaviours

Adults protect children

At YBR we believe that an important part of the Solution is to adopt a holistic approach to child safety by educating parents in safe practices and behaviours. The aim is to empower them with a **healthy two-way communication** with their children about protective matters, to **balance vigilance with fostering independence**, and to reinforce the safety practices taught at school.

Over the past few years we have run numerous workshops for the parents and school community with local and international presenters to educate and empower parents of children of all ages.

Video links to parenting workshops and presentations have also been distributed to coincide with high risk times such as school holidays, camps and occasions when large numbers of family members come together. These links included 'How to Speak to your Kids About Personal Safety' and 'Unwanted Touch', produced by leading safety professionals in the Jewish World.

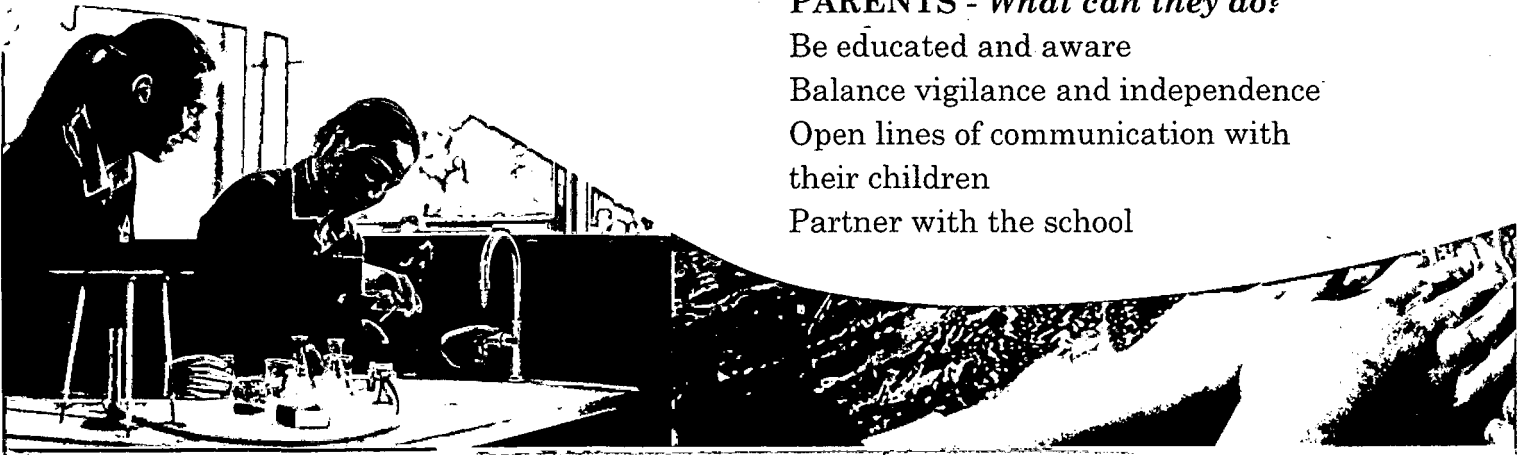
PARENTS - *What can they do?*

Be educated and aware

Balance vigilance and independence

Open lines of communication with their children

Partner with the school



4. Community

Support Services

We are very fortunate to live in the Australian Jewish Community with the range of Support Services available to keep our children safe. Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges have established strong connections and close working relationships with relevant government and support services including:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- SECASA (South Eastern Centre for Assault and Sexual Abuse)
- Victoria Police - Local Victorian Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Team
- Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence
- Jewish Care

COMMUNITY - *Working together*

Australian and Jewish Community

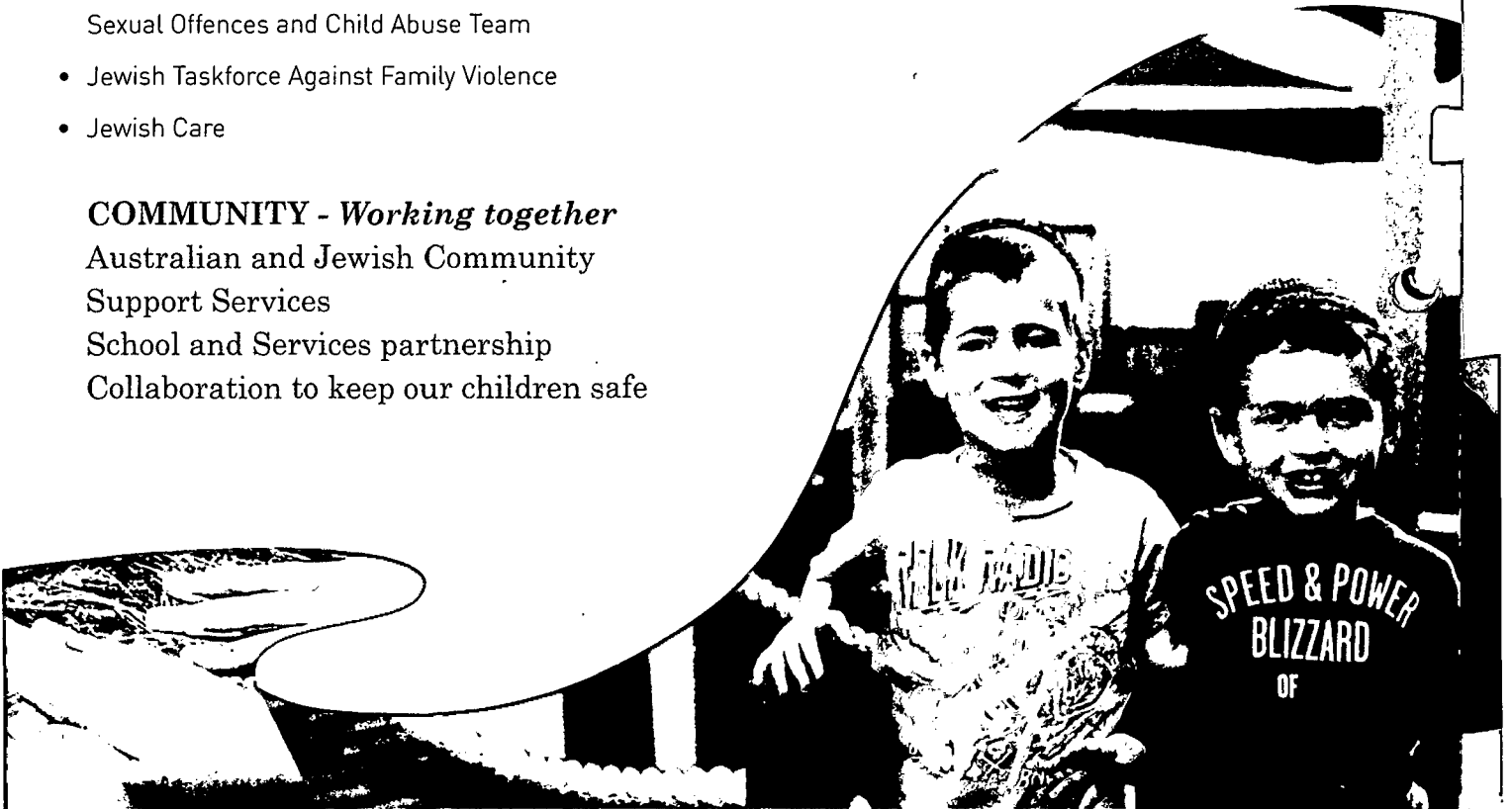
Support Services

School and Services partnership

Collaboration to keep our children safe

We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our school community, one in which students, staff and parents feel safe and supported to come forward with any concerns.

An environment of effective collaboration between all members of our school community and the government and support resources, in addition to a high level of awareness and education is the recipe for a safe community.





“Keeping a community safe is a verb
not a noun; it requires constant effort,
and together, it can be achieved.”

Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler





Yeshivah-Beth Rivkah Colleges

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Emergency contact details for reporting abuse are listed below:

Department of Human Services
www.humanservices.gov.au

SECASA

Crisis: 03 9594 2289
 Email: secasa@southernhealth.org.au
 To contact CASA and the after hours Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL):
 1800 806 292 (Freecall Victoria)

Jewish Taskforce

Phone: (03) 9523 2100
 Email: help@jewishtaskforce.org.au
 Monday - Thursday: 10am - 5pm

Victoria Police

For emergency police attendance call Triple Zero (000) for police, fire or ambulance.

CrimeStoppers
 Phone: 1800 333 000
www.vic.crimestoppers.com.au
 Victoria Police Centre Switchboard
 Phone: (03) 9247 6666
 Monday - Friday: 7am - 7pm

Jewish Care Victoria

Phone: (03) 8517 5999
 Email: info@jewishcare.org.au

