COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES CHILD PROTECTION DECLARATION

1. I am seeking approval to use the facilities at _______________________ School for activities in which

☐ A. children and young people are involved or will be present

OR

☐ B. children and young people are not involved nor will be present

Please tick one

2. For child-related activities only:

I declare that I will comply with all legislative requirements relating to the protection of children and young people from abuse and neglect, including the requirements for a Prohibited Employment Declaration and Working with Children Check for people in child-related employment.

I declare that I have obtained appropriate screening of all my staff involved through an Approved Screening Agency.

*The principal of _______________________ School has sighted the results of the Working with Children Check for all staff.

(*) This must take place prior to approving the user and their staff

I declare that each of my employees and volunteers is a fit and proper person to be on a Departmental site working with children and young people.

I declare that all people who have volunteered to participate in the programs involving children and young people have completed a Prohibited Employment Declaration.

Name (Please print) ____________________________

Signature: ________________________ Date: ________
CHILD PROTECTION DECLARATION

The Department of Education and Training encourages members of the community and education groups to use school facilities when they are available.

Information for Community Users

The community expects that the Department of Education and Training will exercise the highest levels of responsibility in its protection of children and young people from harm related to abuse and neglect while they are in its care. In turn, there is an expectation that when children and young people are present in activities conducted by community members in school facilities they will be safe from abuse and neglect.

In order to meet this obligation in our schools, principals are required to ensure community users seeking to use school facilities are aware of their responsibilities in the area of child protection and welfare. Community users must declare and demonstrate compliance with these legislative requirements prior to a Community Use Agreement being approved.

The NSW Department of Education and Training has developed policies related to risk of harm to children and young people. These child protection policies can be accessed on the DET policy website.

By completing this Declaration the community user is confirming that he/she has read and clearly understands the child protection responsibilities and legislative requirements associated with working in child-related employment.

Recognising and Reporting Risk of Harm

If any person, in the course of their work, has current concerns that a student under 18 years of is at risk of harm, they must report the matter to the Department of Community Services Helpline at the earliest opportunity. This includes concerns of a child protection nature that relate to the actions of a staff member.

General information for community members about recognising and reporting risk of harm to children and young people published by the Department of Community Services is available on the Department of Community Services website:

All persons involved in activities conducted in school facilities are to ensure that they do not engage in inappropriate conduct of a child protection nature.
This includes sexual misconduct, ill-treatment, assault against a child or young person, neglect and behaviour that causes psychological harm.

The Working with Children Check

Children and young people have a right to be safe in their places of learning, work and play. The Working with Children Check makes these places safer for children and young people by helping to prevent unsuitable people from working there.

Information and resources needed to conduct the Working with Children Check can be found at the Commission for Children and Young People's website.

The Working with Children Check prohibits people convicted of sex offences, or other serious criminal acts against children from working in child-related employment.

People working in, or seeking to work in child-related employment must complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration to confirm that they are not a prohibited person. Where a person is unwilling or unable to complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration, such a person cannot be engaged / approved as a community user of school facilities.

The Working with Children Check applies to all people seeking to work in child-related employment. Child-related employment is any work (paid or unpaid) that involves direct and unsupervised contact with children.

Although the screening of volunteers is not mandatory under the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998, the Department of Education and Training's policy is that volunteers are also required to complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration.