



CHILD SAFETY POLICY (STUDENT VERSION)

RATIONALE

Sacred Heart College, as a Catholic learning community in the Mercy tradition, is a community committed to a culture of child safety.

Protection for children and young people is based upon the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and that the inherent dignity of all should be recognised and fostered. Our Mercy Values of Compassion, Justice and Respect also compel us to act to assist others, especially the young and vulnerable. The College is committed to ensuring cultural safety for Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

POLICY STATEMENT

All students enrolled at the College have the right to feel safe and be safe. Sacred Heart College's Culture of Child Safety Policy demonstrates our strong commitment to the care, safety and wellbeing of all students. It provides an outline of the commitments, procedures and strategies developed to keep students safe from harm. This policy covers all forms of abuse in our school environment, on campus, online and in other locations provided by the College.

Our College community includes students, families, employees, contractors, volunteers and clergy.

PRINCIPLES

At Sacred Heart College we believe:

- The policies, guidelines, processes and codes of conduct for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are based on honest, respectful and trusting relationships between adults and children and young people.
- Our College policies and practices demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements and cooperation with the Church, Governments, the police and Government human services agencies.
- All students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Our College works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on child safety and protection.
- All students have the right to an education in all aspects of personal safety in partnership with their families.
- All members of our College community are committed to keeping students safe from harm.
- All persons involved in situations where harm is suspected or disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.
- All members of the College community should feel free to raise concerns about child safety, knowing these will be taken seriously by College leadership.
- Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed both legally and pastorally.

POLICY COMMITMENTS

The wellbeing of students will always be the College's first priority. The College does not tolerate child abuse. The College aim to create a an environment where children are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. There is particular attention paid to the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

The College's commitment to students

The College commits to:

- the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people enrolled in our College.
- providing children and young people with positive and nurturing experiences.
- listening to children and young people and empowering them by taking their views seriously, and addressing any concerns that they raise.
- taking action to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse or harm.
- teaching children and young people the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.
- seeking input and feedback from students regarding the creation of a safe College environment
- ensuring employees, contractors, volunteers and clergy involved in their education pass safety checks and all employees are trained in child safety.

The College's commitment to families

The College commits to:

- communicating honestly and openly with families about the wellbeing and safety of their children.
- engaging with, and listening to, the views of families about our child-safety practice, policies and procedures.
- transparency in our decision-making with families where it will not compromise the safety of children or young people.
- acknowledging the cultural diversity of students and families, and being sensitive to how this may impact on student safety issues.
- continuously reviewing and improving our systems to protect children from abuse.

WHAT TO DO

If you feel unsafe or believe you have been abused, you can tell any teacher or adult at the College.

If you think someone else has been abused or is unsafe you should talk to any teacher or adult at the College or an adult you trust. Help your friends or any other young person by encouraging them to tell a trusted adult. Even if they specifically ask you not to tell an adult, you still should speak up. It is more important to make sure that a young person is helped and feels protected.

All adults working at the College have a responsibility to protect any child under their care. They will be able to help you.

- The adult will listen to your concerns and find a way to help you.
- The information will not be shared with the person who is making you feel unsafe.
- Information will only be shared with people who can support and protect you.
- In some cases the people helping you are required by law to tell the police, the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection services and/or your family to prevent any further abuse, or risk of abuse.

Our College Grievance Policy is located on the student page of CANVAS as well as the Parent Portal if you would like to raise a concern. The College records any child safety complaints.


REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually and will incorporate suggestions from teachers, non- teaching employees, volunteers, students, families and other relevant bodies.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Culture of Child Safety Policy
Grievance Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Approved:	6 June 2019
Name:	Anna Negro
Signature:	
Author:	Deputy Principal - Student Development
Date presented at Council Meeting:	
Person Responsible for Implementation:	Principal and Deputy Principal - Student Development
Last Amended:	May 2019
Next Review Date:	2020
Location Checklist:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Handbook <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent Portal <input type="checkbox"/> Website