



Statement of Undertaking: Protection of Children

*How precious is Your steadfast love
given that all may take refuge in
the shadow of Your wings.*






(Psalm 36:7)

All students enrolled at the College have the right to feel safe and be safe. The safety and wellbeing of young people in our care will always be our first priority and we do not and will not tolerate child abuse. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly 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, children with a disability, children who are unable to live at home, international students, and LGBTIQ+ students.





Our commitment to **our students**:

-  We commit to the **safety and wellbeing** of all children and young people enrolled in our school.
-  We commit to providing children and young people with **positive and nurturing** experiences.
-  We commit to listening to children and young people, and empowering them by ensuring that they **understand their rights** (including to safety, information and participation), and by taking their views seriously and addressing any concerns that they raise with us.
-  We commit to taking action to ensure that children and young people are **protected from abuse or harm**.
-  We commit to ensuring that the needs of **all children and young people** enrolled in our school are met, including those who are most vulnerable.
-  We commit to recognising the **importance of friendships** and to encouraging support from peers, to help children and students feel safe and less isolated.
-  We commit to developing a culture that facilitates and provides opportunities for children and student participation, and that strengthens the **confidence and engagement of children** and students by being responsive to their input.
-  We commit to teaching children and young people the **necessary skills and knowledge** to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.
-  We commit to seeking input and feedback from students regarding the **creation of a safe school environment**.

Our commitment to **our families**:

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

Our commitment to **our staff**:

-  We commit to providing all Sacred Heart College staff with the **necessary support** to enable them to fulfil their roles. This will include regular and appropriate learning opportunities.
-  We commit to providing regular **opportunities to clarify and confirm policy and procedures** in relation to child safety and young people's protection and wellbeing. This will include annual training in the principles and intent of the Child Safety Policy and Safeguarding our Children Child Safety Code of Conduct, and staff responsibilities to report concerns.
-  We commit to **listening to all concerns** voiced by staff, clergy, volunteers, and contractors about keeping children and young people safe from harm.
-  We commit to providing opportunities for employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy to receive **formal debriefing and counselling** arising from incidents of the abuse of a child or young person.