



St Patrick's School

Child Safe Policy

Policy Code: PW-CS
To be Reviewed: 2019
Ratified:

Identity Statement

To provide a school community that draws on the traditions of the Brigidine Order, that celebrates life, reaches out to others and actively cares for our world.

Vision Statements

St Patrick's Primary School strives to:

- Guide and support students on their faith journey through experiences of the Catholic tradition, building a strong sense of belonging, responsibility and wonder within our school, church and global communities.
- Develop an environment that builds on student resilience, self - respect, confidence and empathy – in partnership with families.
- Foster a learning environment that provides a holistic education that nurtures all learners in order for them to realise their full potential.
- Model and foster a safe and supportive environment for students and their families within the school community.
- Provide learning and teaching experiences that promote decision making.
- Conserve God's creation and recognise the traditional owners of the land.

Graduate Outcomes

We endeavour to create graduates who will:

- Have a dynamic faith
- Be committed to social justice
- Be environmentally aware
- Develop and sustain loving relationships
- Be life-long learners
- Realise their potential
- Be creative problem-solvers
- Be resilient, confident and independent
- Be respectful
- Have courage and integrity
- Be self-aware
- Enjoy their experiences

Basic Beliefs

The Catholic School offers choice in education by making schooling based on the Catholic ethos available to those who seek it. Any parent is welcome to apply for enrolment at St. Patrick's and places will be allocated according to the following principles.

Aims

- To make Catholic Education available to all who seek it.
- To encourage parents to make an informed decision regarding their choice of school.
- To meet the needs of parents and children in their choice of school.
- To facilitate a smooth transition into primary school.

Purpose and Rationale

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the whole school community of St Patrick's Primary School leaders, staff, volunteers, students, their families, to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and procedures developed to keep everyone safe from harm, including all forms of abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Children's Rights to Child Safety



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The staff and volunteers of St Patrick's Primary School encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them. We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity and Inclusion

We value and celebrate diversity, especially cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment from culturally and/or linguistically
- promote the personal safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability and diverse backgrounds and their families and make them feel welcome and part of all aspects of school life

Recruiting staff and volunteers

St Patrick's Primary School will apply the most thorough and rigorous standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all staff and require police checks and Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for all staff and volunteers. All volunteers that have direct contact with children are required to sign a code of conduct and have a current WWCC. Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements are included in all advertisements for staff and volunteer positions.

Supporting Staff and Volunteers

St Patrick's Primary School provides support and supervision to all staff and volunteers so people feel valued, respected, affirmed in their work and fairly treated. We have a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our staff and volunteers, all of whom receive training on the requirements of the Code.

Reporting a Child Safety Concern or Complaint

Our school records any child safety complaints, disclosures or breaches of the Code of Conduct, and store the records in accordance with security and privacy requirements. Our complaints and disclosure processes are outlined and detailed in the following policies and procedures:

- Charter of Sandhurst School Improvement (CoSSI)
- Child Safe Policy
- Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting
- Child Protection – Failure to Disclose Policy
- Child Protection – Failure to Protect Policy
- Child Protection – Working with Children
- St. Patrick's Pastoral Wellbeing
- Catholic Education Sandhurst Information for schools – Child Safe Organisations

The Principal of St. Patrick's Primary and the Leadership team have been appointed as Child Safety Officers with specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or students in relation to Child Safety.

Risk Management

Risk management is an approach that minimises the potential for child abuse or harm to occur. Our Risk Management Plan outlines and details all aspects of risk across our whole school environment (on site and off site school activities) with specific activity risk assessments. In addition to our general Occupational Health and Safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse and harm to our students.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed every three years and we undertake to seek feedback from students, parents,



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carers, staff and volunteers.

Principal Signature: _____

School Board Chair Signature: _____