



## **Child Protection POLICY**

### **RATIONALE:**

As a Catholic School with a Special Catholic Character, St Mary MacKillop Catholic School aims to:

- provide a safe spiritual, physical and emotional environment for students and staff
- comply with all current legislation which ensures the safety of students and employees.

### **PURPOSE:**

- The St Mary MacKillop Catholic School Board of Trustees is committed to the safety and wellbeing of students in our care so they thrive, belong and achieve through educational programmes, modelling of school values by staff, promotion of a safe and positive environments and Policies and Procedures designed to safeguard children from harm. We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to the protection of all children. Advice will be sought through appropriate agencies in all cases of suspected or alleged abuse.
- commitment to child protection and recognises the important role and responsibility of all our staff to protection of children. It includes the boards expectations when child abuse is reported or suspected by us. All staff members (including contractors and volunteers) are expected to be familiar with this policy, its associated procedures and protocols and abide by them.
- In line with section 15 of the Children, Young Person and Their Families ACT, any person in our school who believes that any child or young person has been, or is likely to be harmed (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually) ill - treated, abused, neglected or deprived must follow school procedures.
- Although ultimate accountability sits with the board, the board delegates responsibility to the Principal to ensure that all child safety procedures are implemented and available to all staff, contractors, volunteers and parents.

## **Relevant Legislation/Guiding Documents**

- Education Act 1989
- Vulnerable Children Act 2014
- crimes Act 1961 (crimes Amendment Act 2011)
- Privacy Act 1993
- Domestic Violence Act 1995
- Children, Young Persons and their families Act 1989
- Further information and sample child protection templates are available in the Children's Action Plan guideline safer organisations, safer children.

## **GUIDELINES:**

The school will follow the procedures set out in our Procedure Manuals.

- Health and Safety
- Personnel
- Legal Compliance

## **RELATED SCHOOL PROCEDURES:**

### Personnel:

- Appointments
- Police Vetting
- Complaints
- Code of conduct
- Staff Discipline
- Staff Induction
- Teacher Competency

## **SAFE WORKING PRACTICES**

### Health and safety procedures

- Staff code of ethics
- Special Needs and Procedures
- Behaviour Management
- EOTC
- Duty Procedure
- Keeping Staff safe - use of force
- Stand downs and suspensions
- Lockdown
- Attendance
- Emergency Drills
- Search and seizure
- Student support and bullying

## **SUSPECTED / DISCLOSURES OF ABUSE**

- Sexual, physical, Verbal abuse
- Protected disclosures
- Crisis Management
- Complaints against staff (physical) sexual abuse
- Legal competence procedure
- Stand down and suspensions

## **CONCLUSION:**

The school will have a set of implemented management procedures that will result in a safe and caring spiritual, physical and emotional environment for the St Mary MacKillop Catholic School community.

Chairperson: .....

Date: .....