Child Protection Policy

Rationale
Recognising our moral and legal obligations as a Catholic school community to provide a safe learning environment for all students, Cardijn College has adopted the following Policy in line with the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council Policy.

Policy Statement
Cardijn College:
- acknowledges that every child is made in the image of God
- recognises the significant role school personnel have in the prevention of child abuse and takes responsibility for implementing child protection practices
- recognises that child protection goes beyond the face to face relationships and extends into the world of online behaviour and interactions
- will ensure adequate resource allocation for child protection education and programs
- will educate all staff in the area of child protection and mandatory notification
- will require all staff to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect
- will provide protection and abuse prevention curriculum for students
- will support and facilitate an increased understanding of child protection with the families of students

Responsibilities
The School Board will:
- develop, monitor and review the Policy in accordance with legal requirements and the Church’s teachings
- allocate resources to facilitate ongoing training and support for child protection education and programs.

The School Leadership will:
- provide current information on child protection issues
- ensure that an inter-agency approach to the management of child protection is fostered and supported

Date approved: June 2016
Date of next review: June 2018
Related Policies: Cardijn College Bullying and Harassment
CESA Child Protection Policy
Cardijn College MITIOG Policy
SA Catholic Child Protection Council Policy
Cardijn College Protective Behaviours Policy: Casual Staff, Volunteers and Contractors
ensure school personnel understand the definitions of child abuse and neglect and carry out their legal obligations, responsibilities and correct procedures when notifying suspicion of child abuse and neglect.

support school personnel directly involved with the handling of disclosure and notification.

ensure that policies and organisational procedures provide children with a safe school environment; this will be done in consultation with the School Board and the parent community.

provide training and development for school personnel in child protection and abuse prevention curriculum, ensuring practices are relevant and innovative.

initiate support, monitor and evaluate the implementation of child protection and abuse prevention curriculum at all year levels.

provide families with information about and opportunities to evaluate the protection and abuse prevention curriculum; ensure appropriate confidentiality of information concerning children in cases of suspected abuse and neglect.

The School Personnel will:

- treat children with dignity and respect, act with propriety, provide a duty of care and protect children in their care.
- promote models of behaviour between school personnel and children based on mutual respect and consideration.
- provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for children which allows them to flourish.
- participate in training and development opportunities which provide knowledge and skills in mandatory notification.
- follow procedures under the Mandatory Notification legislation, including reporting any issues of concern to the School Leadership.
- teach in accordance with the school’s child protection and abuse prevention.