



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. Cardijn College strives to maintain a child safe culture which recognises the welfare and safety of children and young people as paramount. Cardijn College will always act in the best interest of the child or young person utilizing the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as the foundation for child protection. This states that every child and young person must be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has care of the child.

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 the associated 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 information or suspicion relating to child abuse or neglect in line with their professional obligation and Cardijn College procedures.
- 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

The School Leadership will:

- monitor mandatory notification reports and use this information to inform child protection related school improvements.
- ensure that an inter-agency approach to the management of child protection is fostered and supported

- 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 the Child Protection Curriculum; ensure appropriate confidentiality of information concerning children in cases of suspected abuse and neglect
- 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
- educate all staff in the area of child protection and mandatory notification

The School Personnel will:

- ensure they have completed the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum Training
- 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 that are 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 policies and procedures of Catholic Education South Australia and Cardijn College to promote child protection and abuse prevention

Appendix: Related Policies

- [South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools Child Protection policies](#)
- [Responding to problem sexual behaviour in children and young people](#) (Guidelines for staff in education and care settings (cross-sector SA) CESA Reporting Harm of Children and Young People Procedure)
- [National Catholic Safeguarding Standards](#)
- [Cardijn College Discrimination Bullying and Harassment Policy](#)
- Cardijn College MITIOG Policy

Cardijn College Protective Behaviours Policy: Casual Staff, Volu

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