



## Child Safety Policy-Student friendly version Aug 2019

### Introduction

At St Joseph's College we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sacredness of each human person at the heart of the gospel.

### Purpose

The purpose of our Child Safe Policy is to demonstrate the strong commitment of St Joseph's College to the care, safety and wellbeing of all students at our school. It provides information on how we keep students safe from harm, including all forms of abuse in our school environment, on campus, online and in other locations provided by the school. This document will guide you on how to report or respond to unsafe situations or abuse.

### Principles

We ensure these principles are in place:

- All students deserve the right of safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect, carelessness and mistreatment.
- Our school works in partnership with relevant services that can provide additional support and care and all of the school community are engaged in decision-making that have an impact on child safety and protection.
- All students have the right to an education in all aspects of personal safety.
- All adults in our school have a responsibility to care for children and young people and our processes are based on trusting relationships between all SJC staff and all SJC students.
- All involved in situations where harm is suspected and disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity, respect and in confidence.
- All students should feel free to raise concerns about child safety, knowing these will be taken seriously by school leadership.

### Policy Commitments

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 taking their opinions 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 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.

### **Expectation of our school staff**

At St Joseph's College we expect school employees, volunteers, contractors and employees and members of the church to proactively ensure the safety of students at all times and to take appropriate action if there are concerns about the safety of any child at the school. All school staff must remain familiar with the law, the Code of Conduct, and policies and procedures in relation to child protection and to obey all requirements.

### **Student participation**

It is important that students have a shared responsibility for child safety in the school. Students are included in the Child Safety Committee to assist in the development of the Child Safety practices and processes that will be used to educate and promote this priority throughout the College. The choice of language and the most appropriate format for child-friendly documentation is important to its success.

### **Reporting and responding**

If you have been abused or feel unsafe you can tell a teacher or any adult at our school. All school staff members have a responsibility to protect any child under their care. They will be able to help you.

If you think someone has been abused or is unsafe you should talk to an adult you trust. Any staff member at our school will be able to help. Help your friend by encouraging them to tell a trusted adult. Even if your friend has specifically asked you not to tell an adult, you still should. It is more important to make sure that your friend is helped and feels protected.

The school records any child safety complaints. All school staff members have a responsibility to protect any child under their care. You will be helped.

- The adult will listen to your concerns and help you.
- The information will not be shared with the person who is making you feel unsafe.
- Information will only be shared with people who can support and protect you or your friend.
- In some cases the people helping you are required by law to tell the police, the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection services and/or your family to prevent any further abuse, or risk of abuse.
- This link gives more student information  
[http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard5\\_FeelingSafeSecondarySchool.docx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/ChildSafeStandard5_FeelingSafeSecondarySchool.docx)

### **Full version**

The full version of the St Joseph's College Child Safety version can be found at <http://www.sjc.vic.edu.au/new/student-wellbeing/our-commitment-to-child-safety> This provides more detail on the expectation, recruitment and professional learning for staff as well as providing information on risk management, supporting documents, communication and policy review.