

HOW DO FAMILIES KNOW?

School staff openly communicate with families, carers and guardians about our Child Safe and Wellbeing approaches. Families, carers and guardians are informed about the policies and procedures that are used to support students around Child Safety and Wellbeing. School staff use a variety of means to communicate with families, parents and caregivers including Newsletters, Operoo notes, phone calls and emails.



How do we report our concerns and how do teachers respond?

You can report by verbally telling a staff member, sending an email to your Homeroom Teacher, House Leader, Wellbeing Team or any trusted adult. You can tell your parents and then they will contact the school. You can also use the Child Safety Help link on the Simon Homepage underneath Student Links. Staff will respond promptly to your concern and will treat it seriously. You will be heard and action will follow to investigate your concerns to make sure that you are safe.

You will be protected and supported.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All staff are responsible for identifying any unsafe practices in the College that may affect young people. If someone or a way of acting is identified, the Child Safe Officer is notified and then the Principal. Decisions are then made about following up and gaining more information as needed.

If an adult is breaching Child Safe Standards, interviews are held and staff can be involved in a process that may lead to the adult receiving help to change their behaviour or it can lead to more serious consequences if there are good reasons for this to happen. Any young person who reports unsafe behaviour by a staff member is treated with respect and kept safe at all times.

COMMUNICATION

The Child safe Policy and this summary of the policy will be available on the St Mary Mackillop College website. It will be advertised in the Newsletter. Hard Copies are available from PCC, LRC and Front Office.

The Child Safe and Wellbeing Policy has been updated in 2024 and again, whenever new legislation is proclaimed. It will be updated in 2026 if not before.

Student- friendly

CHILD SAFE POLICY



St Mary Mackillop College

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

At St Mary MacKillop College we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our College. Our commitment is based on our College Mission, that we are people who affirm the dignity of every person, who act with respect and compassion, who reverence relationships, who have hearts for generosity and forgiveness.

WHY DO WE HAVE A POLICY?

We have a policy so that we can protect the rights of young people and to help adults to become more aware of the need to show great care and respect to younger members of our community. Child safety is a priority at our school.

WHAT GUIDES OUR ACTIONS?

Our College acts according to our core values of Respect, Compassion, Dignity, Reverence, Generosity and Forgiveness.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students should be able to feel safe and comfortable with adults at our school and be confident that the adults know and understand the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct ensures that adults know what is expected of them in our school and what is not acceptable in how we treat others in a Catholic school that is an educating community with Jesus Christ as our inspiration. Teachers also must understand the Reportable Conduct Scheme which also aims to protect students and young people from harm.

Why do we have a Code of Conduct for adults working in our school?

Staff who work in our school must show that they are suitable for working with young people. They must have what is called a Working with Children's Check where there is a very detailed check of their background, especially anything about children. There is a Police check done to make sure that the person is of good character and can be trusted in a school with young people.

WHAT ABOUT THE STAFF?

The College has a series of staff meetings to work with staff on how to treat young people safely. Staff also complete online courses about Child Safety, Mandatory Reporting and Wellbeing.

All staff are responsible for understanding the diverse circumstances of students and providing the appropriate support for them. The school pays particular attention to the needs of students with a range of abilities, students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, students who are unable to live at home and LBGTQIA + students. The school recognises and upholds the unique dignity, faith and gifts of each person.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY