



St Brigid's School

Policy Document

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Child Protection Policy

1.Purpose












The purpose of this Child Protection policy is to articulate what is required of staff employed at St Brigid's School to provide all students with a safe environment that ensures their care, wellbeing and protection from all forms of abuse, allows intervention on their behalf and works to empower each student.


2.Scope

This policy applies to St Brigid's School.

3.Policy



The school is committed to:

-  Upholding the respect, uniqueness and dignity of each person
-  The prevention and treatment of child abuse requiring a multi-disciplinary response which is sensitive to cultural diversity and special needs
-  Children having the right to be safe and feel safe
-  Cooperating with Government departments and human service organisations in the community
-  Treating people with sensitivity, dignity and respect who are involved in situations where abuse occurs or is suspected
-  Recognising the family as being primarily responsible for the care and protection of the children
-  Ensuring that the school meets the SACCS & CESA requirements through the provision and maintenance of student protection policy, practices, procedures and programs
-  Having a legal and moral responsibility to actively work to protect students, intervene on their behalf and work to empower them, by ensuring the principles of care and protection and safety are implemented
-  Fulfilling legal and moral responsibilities of mandated notification
-  Educating in the areas of Child Protection and Responding to Abuse and Neglect Procedures
-  Providing a protection and abuse prevention curriculum for students

-  Supporting and encouraging students to achieve confidence in their identity and develop their capabilities and strengths

4. Definitions

Abuse and Neglect - Abuse or neglect, in relation to a child, means:

-  sexual abuse of the child; or
-  physical or emotional abuse of the child, or neglect of the child, to the extent that
 - the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, physical or psychological injury detrimental to the child's wellbeing; or
 - the child's physical or psychological development is in jeopardy and 'abused' or 'neglected' has a corresponding meaning.

(Section 6 (1) Children's Protection Act 1993)

Students – children that attend St Brigid's School.

Staff - employees of St Brigid's school.

Confidentiality - Refers to the restriction of discussion of a child's circumstances to those agencies and school personnel directly involved with helping the child.

Cultural diversity - Refers to the complex concept of culture and its many different manifestations within Australian society.

Mandated notification - Obligation by law to notify the South Australia Department for Child Protection of suspicions of child abuse and neglect. (Section 11 (7) and (2) Children ~ Protection Act 1993)




Multi-disciplinary - Government and non-government agencies involved in welfare, education, health and legal aspects of child abuse and protection.

Safe environment - A place where the adults take reasonable measures to ensure that: children are protected from harm where children know that adults will act on their behalf.

5. Supporting Procedures or Policy Support Documents

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with, and is additional to, any relevant South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS), school or CEO policy, procedure or support document. All Staff are required to comply with the provisions of any such documents, including the following:

-  Protective Practices for Staff and their Interactions with Students

-  St Brigid's Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Policy
-  Catholic Church Safety Manual
-  Policy for the Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People
– SACCS 2011

Resources

- South Australia Department for Child Protection

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au>

Child Abuse Report Line

Phone Number: 13 14 78

OR online <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse>

- Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/teaching/curriculum-and-teaching/keeping-safe-child-protection-curriculum>

- Suicide Postvention Guidelines

<https://online.cesa.catholic.edu.au/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-10668/Suicide+Postvention+Guidelines+cover+tabs.pdf>

Responsibility for implementation, monitoring and review of the policy is vested at the level appropriate to the following roles:



Shannon Correll
Principal



Asmara Omar
School Board Chairperson

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