

# Child Protection & Procedures Policy

## PARENT INFORMATION

Our College recognises that protecting students from harm and the risk of harm is fundamental to maximising their personal and academic potential. For this reason the welfare and best interests of the children within our College will always be our primary consideration.

We expect our students to show respect to our staff and volunteers and to comply with safe practice. We also expect all employees to ensure that their behaviour towards, and relationship with students respect proper standards of care for students, and are lawful. The College will respond diligently to a report of suspected or actual harm, or risk of harm to a student.



### What does the College mean by harm?

Recent Queensland legislation defines harm as:

- Any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused.
- Physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect.
- Sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Domestic or family violence

### How does the College protect students from harm?

The College has a comprehensive Child Protection and Procedures Policy which covers the actions to be taken if a member of staff or a parent of the College becomes aware, or reasonably suspects, that harm has been done to a student of the College by other staff, people outside the College or by other students. Your concerns should be reported to the Principal. These concerns will be treated confidentially and dealt with in the appropriate manner. If suspected or actual sexual abuse or exploitation, you may report directly to the police. The College's complete Child Protection and Procedures Policy is available on the College website. Parents and students have access to this policy at any time. You may also make an appointment to discuss the policy with the Principal if you wish to clarify any matter.



# Student Protection:

Every student has the right to feel safe

How will the school help my child?

The Principal will ensure that the following things are done to reduce the chance of harm occurring to your child:

- Ensuring that each staff member understands and fulfils their obligations under the Policy and the procedures for reporting abuse.
- Ensure that an adequate referee checks of all staff members is carried out prior to employment.
- Ensure that each staff member and volunteer (as required by Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000) who has contact with your child/ren has a current positive suitability notice (Blue Card).

How will the Principal support my child?

If the Principal receives a report of harm to your child, he/she will support the child by:

- Responding rapidly and diligently to the report;
- Reassuring the student;
- Protecting the child's confidentiality as much as possible;
- Offering continuous support and
- Providing counselling if requested.



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