



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School

School Policy Document

Child Safety Policy

<p>St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School 70 Carrick Street, Point Cook, 3030</p> <p>Telephone: +613 8376 5400 Email: office@smocptcook.catholic.edu.au Web: www.smocptcook.catholic.edu.au</p>	
<p>Ratified by the Board of Management:</p> <p>Name of Chairperson: Signature of Chairperson: Date: / /</p>	<p>Name of Principal: Signature of Principal: Date: / /</p>

Vision:

We, at St Mary of the Cross, are an inclusive



*and welcoming Catholic Community
of actively engaged learners.*

*We model Mary MacKillop's servant leadership,
to nurture compassionate and respectful individuals
who translate their beliefs into action.*

Rationale:

All Victorian schools are required to have a child safety policy that details:

- the principles that will guide the school in developing policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe school environment; and
- the actions the school proposes to take to:
 - i demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school's adherence to its child safety policy;
 - ii. support, encourage and enable school staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters; and
 - iii. support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.

Child Safety Code of Conduct

To promote child safety in the school environment we acknowledge the following:

All students have a right to:

- Take part in learning programs that meet their individual needs.
- Feel secure and to be safe in a caring and supportive environment.
- Work and play without interference in an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation.
- Receive respect, kindness and courtesy and to be treated with fairness.
- Have learning continue without disruption in a supportive environment.
- Be valued for their individuality including; race, gender, cultural, physical or intellectual diversity.
- Expect the school rules are fair, consistently implemented and respect the rights of all involved.

All students have a responsibility to:

- Care and value themselves, others, teachers and the school community.
- Be safety conscious in relation to themselves and others.
- Treat others with respect and good manners.
- Keep the guidelines of good behaviour, modelling and supporting school rules.
- Develop a sense of accountability for their own actions.
- Work to achieve their personal best whilst allowing others to do the same.
- Allow for others to learn and to respect the rights of others.
- Explore their full potential in their learning.

The School staff will adhere to the following standards about the ways in which they are expected to behave with children.



School staff will:

- provide opportunities for all students to learn
- treat their students with courtesy and dignity
- work within the limits of their professional expertise
- maintain objectivity in their relationships with students
- always maintain a professional relationship with the students whether at school or not

Implementation

Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse

Forming a belief on reasonable grounds

A person may form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection after becoming aware that a child or young person's health, safety or wellbeing is at risk.

Reporting a belief:

Mandated staff members

All Registered Teachers are mandated to make a report to Child Protection as soon as practicable after forming a belief, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is in need of protection.

Staff members, whether or not mandated, need to report to the principal or assistant principal their belief, when the belief is formed, in the course of undertaking their professional duties.

A report must be made as soon as practicable after forming the belief and on each occasion on which they become aware of any further reasonable grounds for the belief.

If one staff member has a different view from another staff member about making a report and the staff member continues to hold the belief that a child is in need of protection, that person is obliged to make a report.

Please refer to the **Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures Policy 2016** (Rev 2, February 2016) for procedures in response to allegations of child abuse.

These procedures do not:

- prohibit or discourage school staff from reporting an allegation of child abuse to a person external to the school;
- state or imply that it is the victim's responsibility to inform the police or other authorities of the allegation;
- require staff to make a judgment about the truth of the allegation of child abuse; or
- prohibit staff from making records in relation to an allegation or disclosure of child abuse.

Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

- Risk management strategies have been developed within the following school policies:



- Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures Policy 2016 (Rev 2)
- Student Welfare Policy 2016 (Rev 2)
- Student Wellbeing Policy 2016 (Rev 1)
- Bullying & Harrassment Prevention Policy 2016 (Rev 2)
- Cyber Bullying Policy 2016 (Rev 1)

Risk Management

If the school identifies risks of child abuse occurring in the school environment the Prinipal must make a record of those risks and specify the action(s) the school will take to reduce or remove the risks (risk controls)

Note: Different risk controls may be necessary for particular groups of children depending on the nature of the risk and the diversity characteristics of children affected by the risk.

As part of its risk management strategy and practices, the school will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of its risk controls.

At least annually, the school will provide appropriate guidance and training to the individual members of the school staff about:

- individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for managing the risk of child abuse;
- child abuse risks in the school environment; and
- the school's current child safety standards.

Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation

- The Principal, in consultation with appropriate bodies, will develop strategies to deliver appropriate education about:
 - standards of behaviour for students attending the school;
 - healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality);
 - resilience
 - child abuse awareness and prevention.

The school must promote the child safety standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.