



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

St Joseph's Primary School has adopted and implemented the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga 'Safe Schools: Child Protection Policy'. The full text of the policy can be found on the CEDWW Schools Website and going to the link Policies and Documents or directly to CEDWW Child Protection link.

At St Joseph's Primary School, we accept that it is our responsibility to ensure that our students are protected from all forms of abuse and neglect. Staff work to seek out and develop programs and services which will enable students to better protect themselves from harm and provide them with strategies which can be used if they become concerned about abuse or neglect. The Pastoral Care Worker, Centacare Counsellor and the delivery of classroom programs in Religious Education and Personal Development and Health support the development of student's knowledge and skill development. Parents are able to access the services of Centacare and the Pastoral Care Worker.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

All procedures to be followed in handling allegations of reportable conduct and concerns that children may be at risk of harm are based on the following principles (taken from Diocesan Policy):

- All children have the right to safety and to be protected from any kind of abuse.
- All employees are screened according to Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga protocols in keeping with the employment screening.
- Staff are regularly informed of their obligations as mandatory reporters under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, Ombudsman Act 1974, Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998. This is usually through staff meetings conducted by Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga staff or the Principal.
- If a member of staff misses a mandatory inservice it is their responsibility to source an alternative inservice and inform the principal. The principal should check that inservicing has occurred and add record of inservice to files.

- Volunteers working within the school are required to submit relevant
- Persons involved in situations where abuse is disclosed or suspected should be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.
- In any preventive and/or protective action related to child abuse, the total well-being of the child is the primary concern.
- The value of the family unit is respected but not to the detriment of the well-being of the child.
- As the principal is responsible for the administration and conduct of the school and all that relates to it, the principal (or designated delegate) is to be informed promptly of suspected or disclosed incidents of reportable conduct as well as serious matters concerning the welfare of students. All school staff, including teachers, school support staff and authorised volunteers share this obligation.
- The Director of Schools is responsible for the administration and conduct of the schools within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, and all that relates to it, the Director of Schools (or designated delegate) is to be informed promptly by the principal or the delegated staff member of incidents of reportable conduct.
- Information regarding suspected or disclosed reportable conduct shall be made available only to those personnel who have a genuine need to be informed. Personnel who have access to such information have the obligation to observe appropriate confidentiality in relation to this information.
- School personnel are expected to avoid any false, exaggerated or unjustified assertions that may infringe the good name of another person.

The St Joseph's staff is aware of, and complies with, the mandatory requirements in situations of reportable risks of harm, abuse, misconduct and neglect. Training and updating of requirements and any changes to legislation occur as necessary and through annual professional development conducted by the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga which all staff are required to attend.

OUTCOMES

- Staff are informed of procedures
- Safe environment for students

