

Information for Families

A commitment to the protection of students

Our Catholic Ethos

While promoting and providing a safe and supportive learning environment is an essential function for all schools, we have particularly strong and clear reasons for doing this as Catholic schools.

In Catholic Education the desire to protect children and young people is based upon the belief that each person is made in the image of God and that the inherent dignity of all should be recognised and fostered.

For us, making the school a place of safety, a nurturing community of care, is an essential part of our ethos and underpins our commitment to the protection of students. We strive to ensure a culture where all acknowledge and understand that student protection is the responsibility of everyone.

Important in developing this culture is the education of our students about personal safety strategies and a focus by our schools on the safety and wellbeing of students being at the centre of every preventative and protective action they take.

We believe that student protection is an integral part of student wellbeing and that this focus can inspire hope and a positive vision for the future for our students.

How can all members of school communities work together to ensure that students are protected?

- In all matters to do with the protection and wellbeing of students the whole school community must work together cooperatively for the most effective outcome.
- It is recognised that parents/carers are the primary educators and carers of their children and they are encouraged to work in partnership with the school in these important tasks.
- The importance of supporting parents/carers in their efforts to protect their children from harm is acknowledged.
- All members of the school community work together to empower students through modeling appropriate behaviour and teaching them about personal safety strategies.
- All staff participate in student protection professional learning in order to assist them to understand their legal, policy and pastoral responsibilities and to respond appropriately to student protection concerns.
- All schools have selected staff members nominated to act in the role of Student Protection Contacts (SPCs). Students know they can go to an SPC with any concern about something happening at school or away from school.



- This contributes to making Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton schools safe, pastoral environments in which students feel able to seek help if they feel they are at risk.

Pastoral, policy and legal responsibilities

In fulfilling its pastoral, policy and legal responsibilities, Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton and the schools it administers and supports:

- Comply with all relevant Queensland child protection legislation
- Develop, maintain and support a student protection policy and related processes which reflect the pastoral and legal responsibility of school staff
- Provide specialist support personnel and resources at a system and school level
- Develop and maintain relationships and partnerships with relevant statutory, government and non-government agencies in the support and protection of students
- Adhere to relevant internal and external regulatory accountability requirements
- Meet the current professional expectations of schools in Australia

Enquiries/Contacts

For enquiries in relation to Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton's student protection processes please contact your school Principal.

Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton's *Student Protection* Policy can be assessed on line at <http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au/>.

And/or contact:

Diocesan Director, Catholic Education Office

PO Box 524, Rockhampton QLD 4700 | Ph: (07) 4931 3600 | Email: director@rok.catholic.edu.au.

Further Information

Legislation which underpins student protection in Queensland Catholic Schools

- Child Protection Act 1999
- Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act and Regulation 2017
- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000
- Education (College of Teachers) Act 2005

www.legislation.qld.gov.au



Assistance can be accessed on the following telephone numbers:

Queensland Police Service

- Police – Emergency (free call) - 24 hours 000
- POLICE LINK 131 444

Domestic and Family Violence Support Services

- DVConnect Womensline - 24 hours 1800 811 811
- DVConnect Mensline - 9am - 12pm 1800 600 636
- Immigrant Women's Support Service (07) 3846 3490

Department of Communities - Child Safety and Disability Services

- After Hours Service (free call) - 24 hours 1800 177 135

Legal Services

- Legal Aid Queensland 1300 651 188

(Request to speak to someone in the DV Unit)

Support Services

- Centacare Catholic Family and Community Services (07) 3252 4371
- Parentline 1300 301 300
- Kids Helpline (free) 1800 551 800
- Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline (free) 1800 010 120 (women)
1800 600 626(men)
- Lifeline Crisis Counselling Line - 24 hours 13 11 14

Child protection assistance/resources can be accessed online at:

- www.childsafety.qld.gov.au
- www.dvconnect.org.au
- www.police.qld.gov.au
- www.napcan.org.au
- www.parentline.com.au
- www.kidshelp.com.au
- www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalsafety/children
- www.cybersmart.gov.au