

STUDENT PROTECTION

Scope: This policy applies to all Catholic kindergartens, schools, colleges, and services (including the Catholic Education Office) conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as CEDR in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

All Catholic kindergartens, schools, colleges and services conducted by Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) will implement the [Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines](#) in accordance with legislative requirements.

2. DESCRIPTION

This policy expresses CEDR's commitment to the care and protection of children and young people. It also provides a framework for Catholic kindergartens, schools, colleges and services within which they must operate to fulfil their legislative student protection responsibilities. This policy is supported by the following documents:

- *Code of Conduct* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton)
- *Integrity in Relationships* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton) information brochure
- *Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton)
- *Student Protection* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton) information brochure
- *Early Learning and Care Policies and Procedures* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton)
- *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy* (Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton).

3. RATIONALE

Safety, security and nurturing are fundamental human rights and needs. These rights and needs underpin the capacity of students' learning and maximise potential for personal development and ultimately enhance their well-being and life opportunities.

It is recognised that students are harmed, or could be at the risk of harm, from many sources, including self-harm. Appropriate and responsive interventions by Catholic Education can provide hope and foster resilience in students who may be at risk by protecting them from harm and also supporting healing.

This policy will be supported by a set of procedures in accordance with legislative requirements.



4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Measures to ensure compliance with State and Commonwealth legislative requirements and Catholic Church expectations will include:

On-going implementation, development, monitoring and review of:

- A culture and ethos that promotes and encourages understanding and reporting of potential harm and abuse
- Reporting processes that empower students to report concerns
- Student protection processes including the reporting of harm and abuse of children and young people in our kindergartens, schools, colleges and care services
- Participation of all employees in regular mandatory professional learning about student protection
- The ensuring of the implementation of strategies enacted to minimise risk of harm to students
- Promotion of a culture to ensure that student protection is the responsibility of every person and is an integral aspect of student well-being
- Provision of learning programs for students to develop awareness and skills that lead to their empowerment and an ability to identify risk, act protectively and seek assistance
- Provision of additional professional learning for principals, other relevant specialist staff and those who are designated as school Student Protection Contacts
- Assistance with specialist personnel and supporting resources
- Provision of two (2) hours of Student Protection Training annually for all staff
- Provision of volunteer induction sessions as required.

Liaising with external agencies and partnering within the Catholic Education community as part of the whole community student protection strategies by:

- Partnering with parents/caregivers is recognised as an essential element of student protection within school communities. CEDR will support parents to be educated in understanding what student protection means, reading the signs and knowing the dangers, as well as understanding how Catholic Education's processes and guidelines are implemented in kindergartens, schools, colleges and services
- Continuing relationships with relevant government and non-government agencies to enhance, maintain and develop the protection and support of students.

2. All kindergartens are required to implement the *Child Safety Curriculum Early Years*. The *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* in support of maintaining child safety awareness for students (Prep – Year 9) is a mandatory implementation in all Catholic schools and colleges. Colleges with students in Years 10 - 12 will teach a child safety curriculum to these students.



5. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- *Agreement / Induction for Visiting Teachers/Specialists using Catholic Education Sites* 2018
- *Child Safety Curriculum Early Years* 2016 (to be reviewed 2021)
- [*Code of Conduct*](#) v3 2020
- *Induction of Volunteers* 2017
- [*Integrity in Relationships*](#) 2019 (Brochure)
- Early Learning and Care Policies and Procedures ([*Kindergarten Policy and Procedures*](#) 2019) and ([*Outside School Hours Care Policy and Procedures*](#) 2019)
- [*Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines*](#) v9.1 2021
- [*Student Protection*](#) 2019 (Brochure)

RESOURCES

- [*Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*](#)
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse [*Final Report*](#) 2017
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse [*Creating Child Safe Institutions*](#) 2016
- Catholic Professional Standards [*National Catholic Safeguarding Standards*](#)
- Australian Human Rights Commission [*National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*](#)

WEBSITES

- <http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au/catholic-schools/student-protection/>
- <https://danielmorcombefoundation.com.au/keeping-kids-safe-resources/>
- <https://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/health>
- [*Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd \(ACSL\)*](#)

LEGISLATION*

- [*Child Protection Act 1999*](#)
- [*Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Act 2017*](#)
- [*Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Regulation 2017*](#)
- [*Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006*](#)
- [*Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2017*](#)
- [*Education \(Queensland College of Teachers\) Act 2005*](#)
- [*Evidence Act 1977*](#)
- [*Criminal Code \(Child Sexual Offences Reform\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020*](#)
- Queensland Government [*Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000*](#)

*These links will take you to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel website where you will find the current legislation.