



Child Protection Policy

CONTEXT STATEMENT

"Children and young people are our present and our future. They have the right to grow and to develop their full potential physically, emotionally and spiritually. That potential is their families' and communities' responsibility to nurture and fulfil." (Child Protection Council Charter, March 2006).

The provision of trusting and secure relationships is essential in enabling children and young people to thrive and become confident, compassionate and independent adults. Such relationships are consistent with the vision and values of the Catholic Church and are achieved by families and significant adults. In this way, a foundation of emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing and security is achieved for our children and young people. This is our community responsibility and the responsibility of the Church. (SA Catholic Child Protection Council 2006)

The role of Samaritan College is significant in the prevention of child abuse. We recognise children have the right to be safe and feel safe and each member of staff and/or inducted volunteer is legally mandated to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS, PHILOSOPHY & RATIONALE

We at Samaritan College acknowledge:

- The family is recognised as being primarily responsible for the care and protection of children;
- The uniqueness and dignity of each individual is fundamental to our values and ethos;
- Safety as a basic human right and as a prerequisite for our mission;
- The protection from all forms of abuse as a fundamental right of those who are the most vulnerable in our College community;
- Children have the right to be safe and feel safe;
- The prevention and treatment of child abuse requires a multi-disciplinary response which is sensitive to both cultural diversity and special needs. Cultural or other reasons, notwithstanding, College staff must intervene on behalf of children;
- The necessity to institutionalise practices, procedures and programs to ensure students' safety;
- Our obligation as a school to meet legal requirements, protect students, intervene on their behalf and work to empower them;
- Each member of staff and/or inducted volunteers are legally mandated and morally obligated to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect;
- Development is dependent on the quality of care provided by the significant adults in children's lives;
- People who are involved in situations where abuse occurs or is suspected are to be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.

PURPOSES / AIMS

Through the application of this policy, Samaritan College will:

- Take responsibility for implementing Child Protection Policy, practices and procedures;
- Ensure all members of staff and volunteers are aware of the Child Protection Policy and procedures and trained in Responding to Abuse and Neglect;
- Cooperate with relevant government child protection authorities and organisations in the community;

- Protect students; intervene on their behalf and work to empower students.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

In support of this policy Samaritan College will:

- Provide a safe educational environment which ensures children are protected;
- Provide child protection policy, practices, procedures and programs;
- Support students to report any instances of abuse or neglect;
- Induct all those involved in working with students, including new staff and volunteers;
- Provide protective behaviours programs;
- Provide a safe educational environment which ensures children are protected;
- Comply with custody orders and restraining orders;
- Observe confidentiality concerning students in cases of suspected or confirmed abuse or neglect;
- Regularly review and update policy, practices, procedures and programs.

The Co-Principals will:

- Ensure the way staff and students relate is based on mutual respect and consideration;
- Ensure the mandated reporting training of staff complies with legal obligations and recommended frequency;
- Ensure each member of staff understands the definitions of child abuse and neglect and is trained to carry out their legal obligation and responsibilities as a mandated notifier;
- Ensure each member of staff is aware of the correct procedures when notifying any suspicion of child abuse and neglect;
- Ensure policies and organisational procedures provide students with a safe environment;
- Ensure behavioural practices respect the dignity of students;
- Provide training and development for staff in child protection and abuse prevention curriculum;
- Implement child protection and abuse prevention curriculum and ensure students have access to these programs;
- Support staff directly involved with the handling of disclosure and notification;
- Ensure appropriate confidentiality in cases of suspected abuse or neglect;
- Apply due diligence to screening procedures upon recruiting new staff.

The Staff will:

- Treat students with dignity and respect, to act with propriety, provide duty of care and protect students in their care;
- Participate in training and development opportunities which provide knowledge and skills in mandatory notification;
- Recognise as a mandated notifier, they are obliged to report any suspicion of child abuse to the Child Abuse Report Line on 131478;
- Inform the Co-Principals and/or Deputy Principal when they have completed a notification to the Child Abuse Report Line; which includes the accompanying paper form
- Provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for students;
- Be sensitive and responsive to changes in student behaviour which may be indicative of abuse;
- Teach students skills and understanding which will empower them to achieve and maintain personal safety and support them to report any instances of abuse or neglect.
- Ensure that they consider child protection when completing relevant risk assessments

The Students will:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understandings to achieve and maintain personal safety;
- Participate in a range of programs to assist in the development of confidence and self-esteem and to report any instances of abuse or neglect;
- Participate in protective behaviours programs.

The Parents/Caregivers will:

- Model respectful behaviours;
- Work in partnership with the College to provide an environment whereby their child has every opportunity to reach their full potential;

- Be aware of the College’s policy and procedures regarding child abuse and neglect;
- Encourage the development of personal safety and protective behaviours in their child.

The College Board will:

- Ensure the College has in place and is implementing appropriate child protection policies, procedures and programs;
- Promote community understanding of child protection;
- Participate in the development, implementation and review of this policy;
- Ensure policies and procedures are reviewed at least once during a Board calendar year;
- Ensure that child protection is an agenda item at each board meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Child Protection Act 1993 Version: 28.4.2016](#)
- [SA Catholic Child Protection Council Charter, \(2006\)](#)
- [Cyber Safety: Keeping children safe in a connected world – DECD \(2009\)](#)
- [Information Sharing Guidelines for promoting safety and wellbeing– Ombudsman SA 2013](#)
- [Managing Allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings 2013](#)
- [Policy for the Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children & Young People – SACCS \(2011\)](#)
- [Procedures for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect – SACCS \(2010\)](#)
- [Protective Practices for Staff in their Interaction with children and young people 2011](#)
- [Responding to problem sexual behaviour in children and young people 2013](#)
- [Screening and recruitment Procedures for Applicants– CESA \(2011\)](#)
- [Suicide Postvention Guidelines. DECS, AISSA, CEO – A framework to assist staff in supporting their school communities, 2010](#)
- [National Safe Schools Framework](#)
- [Samaritan College Vision Statement](#)

RESOURCES

- [Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum DECD 2014](#)
- [Child-Safe Environments Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect – Guidelines for mandated notifiers an information for organisations DECD 2015;](#)

ADMINISTRATION

This policy will be reviewed annually by the College unless otherwise required.

Signed:

Co Principal

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Co Principal

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Chair of College Board

Date:

Ratified and Implemented

Review Date: June 2017