

Parents as Partners in Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Purpose

This policy establishes a framework for collaboration between families and schools to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children. It reflects Catholic values of dignity, respect, and justice, and aligns with MACS Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All parents and carers of students enrolled at CCCC.
- School leadership, teaching, and non-teaching staff.
- Volunteers and contractors engaged in school activities.

Definitions

- **Child Safety:** Measures to protect children from abuse, neglect, and harm.
- **Wellbeing:** The holistic development of students—spiritual, emotional, social, and physical.
- **Parents as Partners:** A collaborative approach where families and schools share responsibility for child safety and wellbeing.

Policy Statement

Catholic education is a partnership between families and schools. Families are the first educators of their children, and schools work collaboratively with parents to ensure every child is safe, respected, and supported to flourish in faith and learning. Our commitment is grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the sanctity of each human person.

Principles

- **Sacredness and Dignity:** Every child is created in the image of God and deserves respect and care.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Families and schools share the privilege and responsibility for child safety and wellbeing.
- **Transparency and Engagement:** Policies and practices are communicated openly and reviewed collaboratively.
- **Compliance and Accountability:** Adherence to MACS Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Victorian Child Safe Standards, and relevant legislation.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Leadership

- Communicate child safety policies clearly to families.
- Provide opportunities for parent input into policy development and review.
- Ensure staff training on family engagement and child safety.

Parents and Carers

- Support school child safety practices and participate in reviews.
- Model respectful and safe behaviours aligned with Catholic values.
- Report concerns promptly through established channels.

Engagement Strategies

- **Information Sessions:** Regular forums on child safety and wellbeing.
- **Accessible Policies:** Publish policies on school website and parent handbook.
- **Collaborative Reviews:** Invite parent feedback during policy review cycles.
- **Communication Channels:** Include child safety topics in newsletters and meetings

Compliance and Monitoring

- Annual review of child safety practices with parent input.
- Reporting obligations under Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic.).
- Documentation of parent engagement activities

Review Cycles

This policy will be reviewed every **two years**

References

- [MACS Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#)
- [MACS Pastoral Care Policy](#)
- [Victorian Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Australian Student Wellbeing Framework](#)