



MaristCollege
Canberra

TOGETHER. WE CREATE FINE YOUNG MEN

Child Protection Policy

Marist College Canberra has developed the following Child Protection Policy as an overarching statement that provides key elements of our approach to protecting children and young people from abuse and grooming and sets the tone for the College's entire Child Protection Program.

The policy is designed to be Marist College Canberra's public statement of commitment to child safety and a demonstration of the College leaders' commitment to champion child safety in our College.

The College's Child Protection Policy fulfils the requirements of the MSA Standards and has been approved and endorsed by the MSA Regional Director and the MSA Association Council in its capacity as the College's governing body.

The policy is reviewed at least annually, in light of experience, the effectiveness of procedures and the publication of relevant research.

The policy is published on our public website as well as communicated through other mediums such as newsletters, our annual report and in induction and welcome packs for Board of Directors members, staff members, Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors.

Marist College Canberra's Child Protection Policy

Policy Objectives

This policy provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within the College;
- the creation of a safe and supportive College environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the College; and
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in the ACT.

Our Statement of Commitment

Marist College Canberra is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people at the College and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and grooming.

At Marist College Canberra, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, and as such is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain safe and supportive College physical and online environments for all children and young people.

Our Child Safe Values and Principles

The following child safe values and principles guide the College commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the College.

1. All children have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
3. The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.

4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Protection Code of Conduct and Staff and Student Professional Boundaries policy.
5. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our College community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Direct Contact Volunteers*, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all Advisory Board members, staff members, Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors**.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the College community.
11. Procedures are in place to ensure all College premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

*Direct Contact Volunteers are those volunteers who are involved in providing support and guidance directly to students and could potentially have direct unsupervised contact with students during the normal course of providing the volunteer service.

Examples of Direct Contact Volunteer activities may include volunteers involved in College camps and excursions, coaching sporting teams or assisting in learning activities.

**Direct Contact Contractors are third party contractors who have direct contact with students during the normal course of their work or contractors who may be in a position to establish a relationship of trust with a student notwithstanding that access to students would be rare (for example full-time maintenance personnel).

Examples of Direct Contact Contractor activities may include tutors, sports coaches and casual teachers.

Our Child Protection Officers

As part of our commitment to child safety and protection, Marist College Canberra has appointed a number of

Child Protection Officers as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the College community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Child Protection Officers are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Child Protection Policy and the Child Protection Program.

Child Protection Responsibilities

The College acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

At Marist College Canberra all members of the Advisory Board, staff members, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children. Specific responsibilities for each group of the College community are further explained in the "Who is Responsible for Child Protection?" section of our Child Protection Program.

Reporting Child Protection Concerns

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the College community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and grooming and how to report child abuse and grooming concerns to one of our College's nominated Child Protection Officers. It also contains detailed procedures for staff, Advisory Board members, Volunteers and Third Party Contractors with respect to the reporting of child abuse or grooming incidents to relevant external authorities.

External Education Providers, students, parents/guardians and other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse or grooming, and have queries about how to make a report, are asked to contact the College's Senior Child Protection Officer, the Deputy Headmaster, by phoning 02 6298 7212.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

Please be aware that consulting with a Child Protection Officer does not change any obligation you have under legislation to report to an external authority. Refer to the procedures for "Responding to and Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse".

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.

Related Policies and Procedures

- Risk Management Program
- Compliance Program
- Human Resources Program
- Student Duty of Care Program
- Workplace Health & Safety Program

- Child Protection Training

Child Protection Program Review & Improvement

Marist College Canberra is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program and to ensuring the College's compliance with ACT child protection law and regulation.

The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards. For more information, refer to the "Continuous Review & Improvement section of our Child Protection Program".