



## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

St Patrick's College has developed the following Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing as an overarching statement that provides the key elements to our approach to protecting children from abuse and sets the tone for the College's entire Child Protection Program. It is designed to be 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 School Board members, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers. The College's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing has been approved and endorsed by the College's School Board and is regularly reviewed by the School Board.

## ST PATRICK'S COLLEGES STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

### Objectives

This statement 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
- compliance with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in Queensland.

### Statement of Commitment

St Patrick's College 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 and wellbeing of all children and young people at the College and is dedicated to protecting them from harm.

At St Patrick's College we have zero tolerance for child abuse. Our child protection responsibilities are of the utmost importance for the College, as such, the College is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations, and to maintain a safe and supportive College environment for all children and young people.

### CHILD SAFE VALUES & PRINCIPLES

The following child safe values and principles guide the College's 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 and privacy of the child must be respected;
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct 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 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 School Board members, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers;
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.

See also the EREA Commitment Statement to Child Safety.

### **Student Protection Contacts**

As part of our commitment to child protection, safety and wellbeing, St Patrick's College has appointed a number of Student Protection Contacts as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the College community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Student Protection Contacts are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing and the Child Protection Program.

### **Reporting Concerns**

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the College community for identifying key risk indicators of child abuse and how to report child abuse to nominated Student Protection Contacts. Where the concern relates to the Principal or Deputy, a report to the EREA Regional Director via the EREA National Office at (03) 9426 3200. The Program also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, students, parents/carers or other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse are asked to contact one of the College's **Student Protection Contacts**.

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

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