

St Columba's Primary School Primary

Child Safety Policy



MELBOURNE
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



St Columba's
Primary School

St Columba's Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Introduction

At St Columba's Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel ([CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)).

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school ([The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium](#), n. 9).

At St Columba's Primary School our School Mission is to create a warm, friendly, family centred environment where all work together to inspire excellence. We promote, teach and live by the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. We aim to provide a comprehensive curriculum that challenges and enhances individual student learning. We are dedicated to working collaboratively and professionally to achieve a high standard of learning and teaching that empowers students with skills for the future. We recognise the unique qualities of each person and strive to create an environment with a sense of security, happiness and wellbeing. We promote the awareness, tolerance and acceptance of all and are dedicated to the development and dignity of the whole person.

At St Columba's Primary School we are committed to creating a nurturing school environment where children are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe. It is everyone's responsibility to report information about child abuse.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to demonstrate the strong commitment of St Columba's Primary School to the care, safety and wellbeing of all students at our school. It provides an outline of the policies, procedures and strategies developed to keep students safe from harm, including all forms of abuse in our school environment, on campus, online and in other locations provided by the school.

This Policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Child Safe Standards as set out in [Ministerial Order No. 870](#).

This Policy applies to school staff, including school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy. It should be read in conjunction with the following related school policies and procedures:

1. PROTECT: Identifying and Responding to Abuse – Reporting obligations
2. Child Safety Code of Conduct
3. Reportable Conduct Policy.

Principles

Catholic schools have a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing school environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard, and they are safe and feel safe ([CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)).

The following principles underpin our commitment to child safety at St Columba's Primary School:

- All students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Our school works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on child safety and protection.
- All students have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety, in partnership with their parents/carers.
- All adults in our school, including teaching and non-teaching staff, clergy, volunteers and contractors, have a responsibility to care for children and young people, to positively promote their wellbeing and to protect them from any kind of harm or abuse.
- The policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are based on honest, respectful and trusting relationships between adults and children and young people.
- Policies and practices demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements and cooperation with the Church, governments, the police and human services agencies.
- All persons involved in situations where harm is suspected or disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.
- Staff, clergy, volunteers, contractors, parents and students should feel free to raise concerns about child safety, knowing these will be taken seriously by school leadership.
- Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed, either legally or pastorally.

Definitions

Child means a child enrolled as a student at the school.

Child abuse includes:

- (a) any act committed against a child involving:
 - (i) a sexual offence
 - (ii) an offence under section 49B(2) of the *Crimes Act 1958* (grooming)
- (b) the infliction, on a child, of:
 - (i) physical violence
 - (ii) serious emotional or psychological harm
- (c) serious neglect of a child ([Ministerial Order No. 870](#)).

Child safety encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse ([Ministerial Order No. 870](#)).

Child neglect includes a failure to provide the child with an adequate standard of nutrition, medical care, clothing, shelter or supervision to the extent that the health and physical development of the child is significantly impaired or placed at serious risk ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Child physical abuse generally consists of any non-accidental infliction of physical violence on a child by any person ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Child sexual abuse is when a person uses power or authority over a child to involve them in sexual activity. It can include a wide range of sexual activity and does not always involve physical contact or force ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Emotional child abuse occurs when a child is repeatedly rejected, isolated or frightened by threats, or by witnessing family violence ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Grooming is when a person engages in predatory conduct to prepare a child for sexual activity at a later date. It can include communication and/or attempting to befriend or establish a relationship or other emotional connection with the child or their parent/carer ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Mandatory reporting: The legal requirement under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic.) to protect children from harm relating to physical and sexual abuse. The Principal, registered teachers and early childhood teachers, school counsellors, religious clergy, medical practitioners and nurses at a school are mandatory reporters under this Act ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Reasonable belief: When school staff are concerned about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person, they must assess that concern to determine if a report should be made to the relevant agency. This process of considering all relevant information and observations is known as forming a reasonable belief. A 'reasonable belief' or a 'belief on reasonable grounds' is not the same as having proof, but is more than mere rumour or speculation. A reasonable belief is formed if a reasonable person in the same position would have formed the belief on the same grounds ([PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#)).

Reportable conduct: Five types of reportable conduct are listed in the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic.) (as amended by the *Children Legislation Amendment (Reportable Conduct) Act 2017*). These include:

1. sexual offences (against, with or in the presence of a child)
2. sexual misconduct (against, with or in the presence of a child)
3. physical violence (against, with or in the presence of a child)
4. behaviour that is likely to cause significant emotional or psychological harm
5. significant neglect.

School environment means any physical or virtual place made available or authorised by the school governing authority for use by a child during or outside school hours, including:

- a campus of the school
- online school environments (including email and intranet systems)
- other locations provided by the school for a child's use (including, without limitation, locations used for school camps, sporting events, excursions, competitions and other events) ([Ministerial Order No. 870](#)).

School staff means an individual working in a school environment who is:

- directly engaged or employed by a school governing authority
- a volunteer or a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary)
- a minister of religion ([Ministerial Order No. 870](#)).

Policy commitments

All students enrolled at St Columba's Primary School have the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we do not and will not tolerate child abuse. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. There is particular attention paid to the most

vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

Our commitment to our students

- We commit to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people enrolled in our school.
- We commit to providing children and young people with positive and nurturing experiences.
- We commit to listening to children and young people, and empowering them by taking their views seriously and addressing any concerns that they raise with us.
- We commit to taking action to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse or harm.
- We commit to teaching children and young people the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.
- We commit to seeking input and feedback from students regarding the creation of a safe school environment.

Our commitment to parents and carers

- We commit to communicating honestly and openly with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children.
- We commit to engaging with, and listening to, the views of parents and carers about our child safety practice, policies and procedures.
- We commit to transparency in our decision-making with parents and carers where it will not compromise the safety of children or young people.
- We commit to acknowledging the cultural diversity of students and families, and being sensitive to how this may impact on student safety issues.
- We commit to continuously reviewing and improving our systems to protect children from abuse.

Our commitment to our school staff (school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy)

- We commit to providing all St Columba's Primary School staff with the necessary support to enable them to fulfil their roles. This will include regular and appropriate learning opportunities.
- We commit to providing regular opportunities to clarify and confirm policy and procedures in relation to child safety, and young people's protection and wellbeing. This will include annual training in the principles and intent of the Child Safety Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct, and staff responsibilities to report concerns.
- We commit to listening to all concerns voiced by St Columba's Primary School staff, clergy, volunteers and contractors about keeping children and young people safe from harm.
- We commit to providing opportunities for St Columba's Primary School school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy to receive formal debriefing and counselling arising from incidents of the abuse of a child or young person.

Responsibilities and organisational arrangements

Everyone employed or volunteering at St Columba's Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all students is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make ([CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)).

The school has allocated roles and responsibilities for child safety as follows:

Daniella Maddalena: Principal

Bernadette Bradley: Deputy Principal & Student Wellbeing

Guide to responsibilities of school leadership

The Principal, the school governing authority and school leaders at St Columba's Primary School recognise their particular responsibility to ensure the development of preventative and proactive strategies that promote a culture of openness, awareness of and shared responsibility for child safety. Responsibilities include:

- creating an environment for children and young people to be safe and to feel safe
- upholding high principles and standards for all staff, clergy, volunteers and contractors
- promoting models of behaviour between adults and children and young people based on mutual respect and consideration
- ensuring thorough and rigorous practices are applied in the recruitment, screening and ongoing professional learning of staff
- ensuring that school personnel have regular and appropriate learning to develop their knowledge of, openness to and ability to address child safety matters
- providing regular opportunities to clarify and confirm legislative obligations, policy and procedures in relation to children and young people's protection and wellbeing
- ensuring the school meets the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in [Ministerial Order No. 870](#)
- ensuring the school takes specific action to protect children from abuse in line with the three new criminal offences introduced under the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic.) and in line with [PROTECT: Identifying and responding to all forms of abuse in Victorian schools](#).

Guide to responsibilities of school staff

Responsibilities of school staff (school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy) include:

- treating children and young people with dignity and respect, acting with propriety, providing a duty of care, and protecting children and young people in their care
- following the legislative and internal school policies, procedures and processes in the course of their work, if they form a reasonable belief that a child or young person has been or is being abused or neglected
- providing a physically and psychologically safe environment where the wellbeing of children and young people is nurtured
- undertaking regular training and education in order to understand their individual responsibilities in relation to child safety, and the wellbeing of children and young people
- assisting children and young people to develop positive, responsible and caring attitudes and behaviours which recognise the rights of all people to be safe and free from abuse
- following the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct.

Organisational arrangements

The Principal has the overall leadership role with the support of the Deputy Principal (student wellbeing) and Leadership Team in monitoring and responding to the policy, procedures and practices for child safety in St Columba's Primary School in accordance with this Policy.

It is the role of the Principal to ensure that the ethical imperative of keeping children safe is recognised, understood, valued, and upheld by all staff, volunteers, and community members within the school. To assist with implementation, monitoring and reviewing child safety matters, the Principal and Deputy Principal will work closely with the School Leadership Team, Student Wellbeing Team and the SAC. It is the specific role of the Principal and Deputy Principal to ensure that all staff are knowledgeable of their requirements in regards to Mandatory Reporting and that they are aware that all issues need to be handled sensitively and promptly.

Staff professional learning meetings, Student Wellbeing meetings and the weekly staff news are all avenues that assist in the communication and dissemination of information that involves issues of child safety. It is the role of the Principal and Deputy Principal to assist members of the school community, who have concerns in regards to an individual student's safety, in reporting these concerns to the appropriate authority. The Principal and Deputy Principal will also be responsible for the reviewing of school procedures in order to gauge the effectiveness of the school in managing and revising St. Columba's child safe strategies and to ensure that the policy is distributed to all members of the school community.

We have appointed a Child Safety Lead/Officer and the role description is available in the staff handbook:

- The Child Safety Team assists the Principal.
- The Child Safety Team works in identifying and mitigating risks in child safety.
- The Child Safety Team also supports the Principal to monitor implementation of school policies, procedures and practices and to identify professional learning.

St Columba's website and newsletter will provide information to keep parents and carers informed of child safety commitments, procedures and arrangements.

Expectation of our school staff – Child Safety Code of Conduct

At St Columba's Primary School we expect school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy to proactively ensure the safety of students at all times and to take appropriate action if there are concerns about the safety of any child at the school. All school staff must remain familiar with the relevant laws, the code of conduct, and policies and procedures in relation to child protection, and comply with all requirements. We have developed a [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#), which recognises the critical role that school staff play in protecting the students in our care and establishes clear expectations of school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy for appropriate behaviour with children in order to safeguard them against abuse and/or neglect.

Our Code also protects school staff through clarification of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the school's child safe policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone in the school community with respect
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination)
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership team

- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958
- reporting any child safety concerns to the Principal or Deputy Principal
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- reporting to the Victorian Institute of Teaching any charges, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board members must not:

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- initiate unnecessary physical contact which children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability, or any other forms of discrimination
- have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the Principal or Deputy Principal's knowledge and/or consent or the school governing authority's approval (for example, unauthorised after hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate
- have any online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family (unless necessary eg by providing families with e-newsletters or assisting students with their school work)
- use any personal communication channels/device, such as a personal email account, to contact families/ students
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.

Student safety and participation

At St Columba's Primary School, we actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe and enable them to understand, identify, discuss and report their concerns. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

The curriculum design integrates appropriate knowledge and skills to enhance students' understanding of being safe. Teaching and learning strategies that acknowledge and support student agency and voice are implemented

We have developed appropriate education about:

- standards of behaviour for students attending our school
- healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality)
- resilience
- child abuse awareness and prevention.

At St Columba's Primary School children are provided with forums such as the Student Representative Council (SRC), regular sessions of Circletime held in each class and participation in student wellbeing surveys, conducted annually, to voice concerns or forward suggestions that can make St Columba's Primary School a safer learning environment.

Students can directly approach the Principal, Deputy Principal, classroom teachers, specialist teachers, learning support officers and administration officer to seek advice or receive assistance at any time. Our adherence to the Victorian Curriculum supports children to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

We explicitly teach the Social and Emotional curriculum using the Bounce Back program, Respectful Relationships and use the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. At St Columba's Primary School we begin each term with a focussed Wellbeing Week to ensure connectedness to school. We have a dedicated Student Wellbeing Leader/ chaplain who actively works in all classrooms and facilitates programs such as Peaceful Kids, Better Buddies, St Columba's Kids and other small group sessions based on social and emotional learning, all of which supports the nurturing of student wellbeing at St Columba's Primary School and also equips children with understandings and strategies related to their personal safety.

Regular Student Wellbeing meetings are structured into our staff meeting agenda and teachers meet with the Student Wellbeing Team once a term to discuss any concerns or needs of children in their class. Each of these promotes the empowerment of children and provides opportunities for children to contribute meaningfully and in partnership with the school community. The provision of a school psychologist ensures that children are able to access further social emotional support, should it be required.

During 2018, the SRC assisted in the creation of a child friendly version of this code of conduct which has been widely promoted throughout the school and is available on the school website. It will be reviewed annually by the SRC.

Reporting and responding

Our school records any child safety complaints, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct, and stores the records in accordance with security and privacy requirements. Our school complies with legal obligations that relate to managing the risk of child abuse under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic.), the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic.) and the recommendations of the [Betrayal of Trust](#) report.

Child protection reporting obligations fall under separate pieces of legislation with differing reporting requirements.

Our school's [PROTECT: Identifying and Responding to Abuse – Reporting obligations](#) updated on 20th May 2021 sets out the actions required under the relevant legislation when there is a reasonable belief that a child at our school is in need of protection or a criminal offence has been committed, and provides guidance and procedures on how to make a report.

Our policy assists staff, volunteers and families to:

- identify the indicators of a child or young person who may be in need of protection
- understand how a reasonable belief is formed

- make a report of a child or young person who may be in need of protection
- comply with mandatory reporting obligations under child protection law, and their legal obligations relating to child abuse and grooming under criminal law.

Our school has also established additional internal procedures and processes to help ensure that appropriate action is taken to respond to concerns about the wellbeing and/or safety of a student.

St Columba's Primary School staff, in partnership with families, will ensure children are engaged and active participants in the decision making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety. This means that the views of staff, children, young people and families are taken seriously and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children are also provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

At St Columba's Primary School if any member of our school community has concerns for a child's safety they need to discuss, they can notify the school Principal or the Deputy Principal. In the case they are not available, then it should be discussed with a member of the school leadership team. Alternatively, any member of the school community may report directly to the responsible authority.

The staff member, supported by the Principal will follow the step-by-step guide to making a report as outlined in the [Four Critical Actions for Schools: Responding to Incidents, Disclosures and Suspicions of Child Abuse](#).

Screening and recruitment of school staff

St Columba's Primary School will apply thorough and rigorous screening processes in the recruitment of employees and volunteers involved in child-connected work. Our commitment to child safety and our screening requirements are included in all advertisements for such employee, contractor and volunteer positions, and all applicants are provided with copies of the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct and the Child Safety Policy.

Each job description for staff involved in child-connected work has a clear statement that sets out the requirements, duties and responsibilities regarding child safety for those in that role and the occupant's essential qualifications, experience and attributes in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

When recruiting and selecting employees, contractors and volunteers involved in child-connected work, we make all reasonable efforts to gather, verify and record the following information about any person we propose to engage:

- confirm the applicant's Working with Children Check and National Police Check status and/or professional registration (as relevant)
- obtain proof of personal identity and any professional or other qualifications
- verify the applicant's history of work involving children
- obtain references that address the applicant's suitability for the job and working with children.

We will also ensure that appropriate supervision or support arrangements are in place in relation to the induction of new school staff into the school's policies, codes, practices and procedures governing child safety and child-connected work.

We have procedures and processes for monitoring and assessing the continuing suitability of school staff to work with children, including regular reviews of the status of Working with Children Checks and staff professional registration requirements such as Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration.

St Columba's Primary School implements the following CECV guidelines:

- *Guidelines on the Employment of Staff in Catholic Schools*

- *Guidelines on the Engagement of Volunteers in Catholic Schools*
- *Guidelines on the Engagement of Contractors in Catholic Schools*
- *NDIS/External Providers: Guidelines for Schools.*

Child safety – education and training for school staff

St Columba’s Primary School provides employees, volunteers and clergy with regular and appropriate opportunities to develop their knowledge of, openness to and ability to address child safety matters. This includes induction, ongoing training and professional learning to ensure that everyone understands their professional and legal obligations and responsibilities, and the procedures for reporting suspicion of child abuse and neglect.

At least annually, our professional learning and training addresses:

- staff’s individual and collective obligations and responsibilities for managing the risk of child abuse
- child abuse risks in the school environment
- our school’s current child safety standards.

All new and returning staff are provided with an induction prior to the commencement of their position at St Columba’s Primary School. During this time all relevant policies are issued and discussed in detail. All staff at St Columba’s Primary School are issued annually the Staff Handbook. Obligations regarding mandatory reporting and child safety etc. are clearly defined within this and their legal obligations and responsibilities are discussed in detail prior to commencing the year. Throughout the year during staff meetings and/or wellbeing meetings staff are provided opportunities for further ongoing training and professional learning on child safety.

Risk management

At St Columba’s Primary School, we are committed to proactively and systematically identifying and assessing risks to student safety across our whole school environment, and reducing or eliminating (where possible) all potential sources of harm. We document, implement, monitor and periodically review our risk management strategies for child safety, and ensure that the strategies change as needed and as new risks arise.

The Principal, Deputy Principal- student wellbeing and School Child Safety Team will work with staff through general staff meetings and dedicated student wellbeing meetings to monitor and develop risk management strategies.

Relevant legislation

- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic.)*
 - *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic.)*
 - *Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic.)*
 - *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic.)*
 - *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic.)*
 - *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic.)*
 - *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*
 - *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)* – Three new criminal offences have been introduced under this Act:
1. [Failure to disclose offence](#): Any adult who forms a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under 16 has an obligation to report that information to police. Failure to disclose the information to police is a criminal offence.

2. [Failure to protect offence](#): This offence will apply where there is a substantial risk that a child under the age of 16 under the care, supervision or authority of a relevant organisation will become a victim of a sexual offence committed by an adult associated with that organisation. A person in a position of authority in the organisation will commit the offence if they know of the risk of abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.
3. [Grooming offence](#): This offence targets predatory conduct designed to facilitate later sexual activity with a child. Grooming can be conducted in person or online, for example via interaction through social media, web forums and emails.

Related policies

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) guidelines

- [CECV Guidelines on the Employment of Staff in Catholic Schools](#)
- [CECV Guidelines on the Engagement of Volunteers in Catholic Schools](#)
- [CECV Guidelines on the Engagement of Contractors in Catholic Schools](#)
- [CECV NDIS/External Providers: Guidelines for Schools](#)
- [CECV Positive Behaviour Guidelines](#)

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) policies

- [Policy 2.19: Identifying and responding to abuse – Reporting obligations](#)
- [Policy 2.20: Complaints](#)
- [Policy 2.26: Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools](#)

School policies

- [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- [PROTECT: Identifying and Responding to Abuse – Reporting obligations](#)

Review of the Child Safety Policy

At St Columba’s Primary School we are committed to continuous improvement of our child safety systems and practices. We intend this policy to be a dynamic document that will be regularly reviewed to ensure it is working in practice and updated to accommodate changes in legislation or circumstance. We will maintain a history of updates to the policy.

Date	Comment (e.g. major review, minor review)
July 2016	Development of Child Safety Policy
March 2017	Minor review addition of PROTECT
August 2017	No changes required
August 2018	Minor review
August 2019	No changes required
October 2020	Minor review

May 2021	MACS version with additional information of school context, processes and risk management.
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