



# Catholic Schools Child Safe Schools

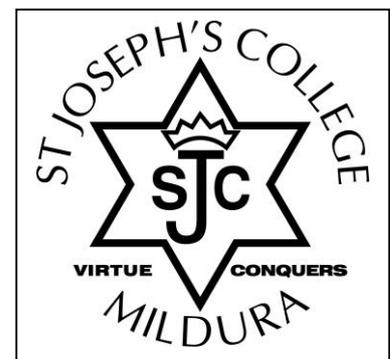
St Joseph's College, Mildura

## Child-friendly Edition of our Child Safety Policy

Date of policy: May 30, 2018

Date of last major review: May 30, 2018

Date of next major review: May 2021



Policy Title	<b>St Joseph's College, Mildura Child-friendly Edition of our Child Safety Policy (May 2018)</b>
Introduction	<p><b>What does our school value and why is child safety important in our school?</b></p> <p>At St Joseph's College we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our College. Our commitment is based on how Jesus Christ treated others, with love, justice and a belief that all people are created by God as special.</p>
Purpose	<p><b>Why do we have a policy?</b></p> <p>We have a policy so that we can protect the rights of young people and to help adults to become more aware of the need to show great care and respect to younger members of our community.</p>
Principles	<p><b>What are the important ideas that guide our actions?</b></p> <p>Our College acts according to our core values of Community, Spirituality, Justice, Excellence, Compassion, Hospitality and Service.</p>
Policy Commitments	<p><b>What pledges do we make to our school community?</b></p> <p>We are committed to providing a safe school where all who enter can feel safe and able to learn, socialize, grow up healthy and be respectfully treated by all others.</p>
Expectation of our School Staff	<p><b>Why do we have a Code of Conduct for adults working in our school?</b></p> <p>Adults need to know what is expected of them in our school and what is not acceptable in how we treat others in a Mercy Catholic school.</p>
Student Participation	<p><b>How are students involved in child safety discussions and planning for improvements in our school?</b></p> <p>All students are invited to be part of our College's Child Safety Program. This means that your ideas and feedback are always welcome. You can do this through committees like the Student Representative Council, through classroom discussions on the topic of safety at school, by letting your Homeroom Teacher know about safety concerns at any time, through contacting any staff member at any time to raise an issue or to report something that is concerning you.</p>
Reporting and Responding	<p><b>How do we report our concerns and how do teachers respond?</b></p> <p>You can report by verbally telling a staff member, sending an email to your Homeroom Teacher, House Leader or any staff member. You can tell your parents and then will contact the school. Staff will respond promptly to your concern and will treat it seriously. You will be heard and action will follow to investigate your concerns to make sure that you are safe. You will be protected and supported.</p>

Recruitment	<p><b>How are staff selected to work in our school?</b></p> <p>Staff who work in our school must show that they are suitable for working with young people. They must have what is called a Working with Children's' Check where there is a very detailed check of their background, especially anything about children. There is a Police check done to make sure that the person is of good character and can be trusted in a school with young people.</p>
Professional Learning for School Staff	<p><b>How does the school support staff to develop their knowledge about child safety?</b></p> <p>The College has a series of staff meetings to work with staff on how to treat young people safely. Staff also complete an online course on How to Build Child Safe Schools.</p>
Risk Management	<p><b>How does our school identify possible risks, who is involved and what happens next?</b></p> <p>All staff are responsible for identifying any unsafe practices in the College that may affect young people. If someone or a way of acting is identified the Child Safe Officer is notified and then the Principal. Decisions are then made about following up and gaining more information as needed. Interviews are held and staff can be involved in a process that may lead to the staff member receiving help to change their behaviour or it can lead to more serious consequences for the staff member if there are good reasons for this to happen. Any young person who reports unsafe behaviour by a staff member is treated with respect and kept safe at all times.</p>
Supporting Documents	<p><b>What other information do we use to help us?</b></p> <p>The College has a detailed Child Safe Policy that is used to guide decisions and processes in cases where the safety of young people is under question from actions by adults or other students within the College.</p>
Communication	<p><b>How does the school let everyone know about this policy and our plans?</b></p> <p>The Child Safe Policy and this summary of the policy will be available on the St Joseph's College website. The policy will also be published in the College Newsletter that is sent to every family via email.</p>
Review	<p><b>When will we update this policy?</b></p> <p>The Child Safe Policy has been updated in 2018 and again, whenever new legislation is proclaimed. It will be updated in 2021 if not before.</p>