STUDENT PROTECTION

Brisbane Catholic Education staff uphold the dignity of the human person, strive to develop the whole person and are committed to ensuring that support is provided in cases of abuse of students or where such abuse is suspected or alleged.

WHAT WE DO

All staff members at St. Peter’s Catholic Primary School receive Professional Development regarding Student Protection Policies and procedures.

‘Recognise React Report’ Student Protection Posters are displayed in each classroom and in prominent areas of the school. The school Student Protection Contacts are clearly identified on the posters.

At the beginning of each school year every class learns about Protective behaviour (with reference to the Feeling Safe Poster).
Harm and abuse refer to any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing.
Specific types of abuse and harm to children include physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

**PHYSICAL ABUSE**
This form of harm results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction or lack of an interaction, which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power or trust.

**NEGLECT AND NEGLIGENT TREATMENT**
These terms refer to the failure of carers to provide for the development of the child – health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions.

**SEXUAL ABUSE**
This form of abuse refers to the involvement of a child/young person in sexual activity that he/she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, for which the child/young person is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violate the laws or social taboos of society. Child sexual abuse is evidenced by this activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age, development or experience is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE**
This form of abuse/harm includes the failure to provide a developmentally appropriate, supportive environment. There may be non-physical acts towards the child that cause or have a high probability of causing harm to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

There are four categories of harm to students:
1. Harm to students by employees/volunteers.
2. Harm to students by someone outside Brisbane Catholic Education schools.
3. Harm to students by other students.
4. Student self-harm.

**MANDATORY REPORTING**

**WHAT IS MANDATORY REPORTING?**
It is a requirement of Brisbane Catholic Education that all staff report suspicions of harm or an unacceptable risk of harm to a student caused by abuse and/or neglect to the Principal or a Student Protection Contact.

The following mandatory reporting obligations apply to staff under legislation:
- all staff are required to report sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse of a student - Education (General Provisions) Act 2006;
- and teachers are required to report a ‘reportable suspicion’, which means a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm caused by sexual and/or physical abuse where the student may not have a parent able and willing to protect the student from the harm - Child Protection Act 1999.