

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receiving an allegation of harm or suspected harm to a student from any source, or inappropriate behaviour to a student by an employee, the Principal will determine as quickly as possible the response required and the appropriate procedure to be followed.

THE PRINCIPAL MUST:

- Report immediately to the Police if the allegation is of suspected sexual abuse
- Report to the Executive Director Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane in cases of suspected inappropriate behaviour to students by an employee
- Report to the relevant state authority (Department of Child Safety) in cases of suspected harm or risk to a child/student
- Keep appropriate records in relation to suspicions of harm or risk of harm to students
- Ensure that any staff member involved in a student protection case is provided with opportunities for support and debriefing
- Ensure students are appropriately supported
- Ensure confidentiality

The Principal is not permitted to contact the parents/guardians nor interview the student or staff member until the Police investigation has been concluded.

TEACHER AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receiving an allegation of harm or suspected harm to a student from any source, or inappropriate behaviour to a student by an employee, the teacher will report the information immediately.

ALL STAFF MUST:

- Report immediately any reasonable suspicion that a current school employee has sexually abused a current student by making a written report to the school Principal or the Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education
- Report any reasonable suspicion that a school employee has harmed a student or is at risk of harming a student to the school Principal or the Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education
- Report any reasonable suspicion of harm or risk of harm to students from anyone outside the school to the Principal or school Protection Personnel.
- Report any reasonable suspicions of harm or risk of harm to students from anyone outside the school to Principal or Student Protection Contact.
- Report any reasonable suspicions of student self-harm or risk of self-harm (to the school Principal or school Protection Personnel).
- Keep appropriate records in relation to suspicions of harm or risk of harm to students.
- Ensure confidentiality

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers are required to read the volunteer student protection information. Volunteers are required to report any reasonable suspicion of harm or risk of harm to any student to the Principal or a Student Protection Contact.

More information on student protection can be found on Brisbane Catholic Education's Public Website under the Students and Parents tab www.bne.catholic.edu.au



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St Peter's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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).

TYPES OF ABUSE AND HARM

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.