



Catholic Regional College Sydenham

Child-Friendly Edition of our Child Protection and



Introduction

What does our school value and why is child safety important in our school?

Catholic Regional College Sydenham is committed to providing a safe culture and environment for all young people. Every person at Catholic Regional College Sydenham has the right to be safe and protected from harm. Catholic Regional College Sydenham does not tolerate any form of child abuse. Catholic Regional College Sydenham will always act in the child's best interests in order to protect them from harm. Catholic Regional College Sydenham believes that every person is created by God and has a special dignity that must be respected at all times.

Vision

Catholic Regional College Sydenham endeavours to teach, challenge and transform the world through a Eucharistic community. Recognising that every dream and aspiration must be nurtured, we afford dignity, respect, care and hospitality to foster the revelation of every person's place in the world. We have faith that each of us is enabled to seek the understanding and skills to realise a hope filled future.

Mission

The Catholic community of Catholic Regional College Sydenham nourishes each person's personal relationship with Christ through fostering a climate that allows for a free response to God's call to faith. Through explicitly teaching, living and celebrating our faith within a living Catholic tradition we build and sustain relationships based on Gospel values, that are life giving and empowering in an environment that ensures the safety and well-being of all.

Motto

Faith, Seeking, Understanding



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Purpose

Why do we have a policy?

The policy is in place to protect students from abuse and harm and to help each member of the College community understand their child safety responsibilities and that the protection of children is a priority at Catholic Regional College Sydenham.

Principles

What are the important ideas to guide our actions?

Catholic Regional College Sydenham will work to create and promote a child safe culture.

- All children have the right to be safe;
- The welfare and best interests of the child is the most important consideration;
- The views of the child and the child's privacy must be respected;
- There are clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct and other policies; and
- Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.

Policy Commitments

What pledges do we make to our school community?

At all times the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision making.

- Catholic Regional College Sydenham has a Child Protection Program in place and this will be reviewed and updated as required;
- Catholic Regional College Sydenham will work with families and students in making decisions regarding child safety;
- All members of the community are encouraged to speak up when they are concerned about the safety of themselves or others. Their concerns will be taken seriously and addressed in a just and timely manner; and
- Catholic Regional College Sydenham will identify and assess risks to student safety and work to eliminate (if possible) or reduce risks to student safety.



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Expectation of our school staff

Why do we have a code of conduct for staff working in our school?

Catholic Regional College Sydenham has a Code of Conduct for staff, clergy, contractors and volunteers. There is also a Code of Conduct for visitors. These are in place to protect children and to make it clear what is and what is not acceptable behaviour.

Student Participation

How are students involved in Child Safety discussions and planning for improvements in our school?

Catholic Regional College Sydenham has a Student Leadership Group, this has representatives from the Senior Leadership Committee, Year 11 and Year 12 students. This group meets and discusses child safety as part of its agenda.

Reporting and responding

How do we report our concerns and how do teachers respond?

The students can use Child Safety Reporting Form on their SEQTA Splash Page to report incidents when they feel unsafe. These reports are sent to their Cluster Coordinators, Director of Community Engagement, AP Resilience and Wellbeing and the Deputy Principal who will respond to these.

If a student has a concern and reports this to a staff member they will take the appropriate action. Staff Members all have access to the Catholic Regional College Sydenham Child Protection Program that contains all the policies and guidance on how to identify the indicators of child abuse and how to respond to allegations of abuse. Catholic Regional College Sydenham also has specific people appointed as Child Protection Officers, these are Jenna Potts, David O'Brien and Daniel Jaber. Students can report concerns directly to them. These staff members also provide advice to staff in the area of child safety.

Recruitment

How are staff selected to work in our school?

Catholic Regional College Sydenham staff are recruited in accordance with CECV guidelines.

All staff members employed by Catholic Regional College Sydenham have undergone a National Police Check or hold a Working with Children Check.



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Professional Learning for School Staff

How does the school support staff to develop their knowledge about Child Safety?

Staff members undertake professional learning in the area of child safety. Staff members also have access to the Catholic Regional College Sydenham Child Protection Program via the CompliSpace System.

Risk Management

How does our school identify possible risks, who is involved and what happens next?

All staff are responsible for identifying and managing risks to student safety. The Child Protection Officers provide guidance and support to school staff and students.

The College Principal is responsible and will be accountable for the taking all practical measures to ensure that this policy and the schools Child Protection Program is implemented.

Supporting Documents

What other information do we use to help us?

- Catholic Regional College Sydenham Child Protection Program.
- Protect: Four Critical Actions Responding to incidents, disclosures and suspicions of child abuse.
- <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Our-Schools/Child-Safety>
- www.vrqa.vic.gov.au

Communication

How does the school let everyone know about the policy and our plans?

Information regarding our child safety policies and procedures will be provided to our community in the following ways:

- Catholic Regional College Sydenham website and the SEQTA Splash Pages,
- Induction programs;
- Cluster assemblies;
- Daily Messages,
- College Newsletter; and
- Staff professional learning.



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Review

When will we update this policy?

The Child-Friendly Edition to our Child Protection and Safety Policy will be reviewed annually.

The Student Leadership group will review the policy as part of their committee and the representative on the School's Child Safe Committee will share the updates for publishing and updates to training programs for the community.

Managed by: Principal, Child Safety Committee and Assistant Principal – Wellbeing and Resilience	Contact Persons: Principal, Child Safety Committee and Assistant Principal – Wellbeing and Resilience	Approved by: Principal, Child Safety Committee and Student representatives
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