



ST JAMES SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

1. Saint James School affirms the SACCS Policy for Child Protection, Procedures for Reporting Child Abuse and the draft Protective Practices Policy.
2. The policy is based on the Gospel values of freedom and justice for all people and an underlying belief in their dignity and uniqueness.
3. Safety, a basic human right, is a pre-requisite for the Catholic school to be able to carry out its mission to educate.
4. Children need to know and believe that they have the right to be safe and feel safe at all times.
5. All school personnel paid and voluntary should be aware of their legal responsibilities as mandatory notifiers.
6. Catholic Schools operate in a wider community context where legal requirements exist & where they have an obligation to:
 - protect children
 - provide a secure, safe environment where children can be safe and feel safe
 - intervene on behalf of children
 - actively work towards empowering children
 - ensure the principles of care, protection and safety are implemented.

Responsibilities of the Principal

1. To provide a safe school environment which ensures that children are protected.
2. To ensure school personnel understand the definitions of child abuse and neglect and carry out their legal obligations, responsibilities
3. To support school personnel directly involved with the handling of disclosure and notification.
4. To ensure that policies and organisational procedures provide children with a safe school environment. This will be done in consultation with schools boards and the parent community.
5. To promote models of behaviour between school personnel and children based on mutual respect and consideration.
6. To provide training and development for school personnel in child protection and abuse prevention curriculum.
7. To initiate and support the implementation of child protection and abuse prevention at the classroom level to ensure that all children have access to these programs throughout their school years.
8. To ensure appropriate confidentiality of information concerning children in cases of suspected abuse or neglect.

Responsibilities of School Personnel

1. To treat children with dignity and respect, to act with propriety, provide a duty of care and protect children in their care.
2. **As mandated reporters, staff are legally obliged to report if, in the course of their work, they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected. (Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78)**
3. To provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for children.
4. To participate in training and development opportunities which provide knowledge and skills in mandatory notification.
5. To teach children skills and understanding which will empower them to achieve and maintain personal safety.
6. To assist children to develop positive, responsible and caring attitudes and behaviours which recognise the rights of all people to be safe and free from both harassment and abuse.

At St James School

1. Our Child Protection Policy will be reviewed with Staff every year.
2. Personal safety is included in the Child Protection Curriculum and Made In The Image Of God program.
3. Mandatory Notification training and refresher courses are provided to all staff.
4. Volunteer's induction includes information about Child protection.
5. The Safe Schools Programme will be implemented.
6. All appropriate screening procedures established by the Catholic Education Office, as they apply to all staff and volunteers working in the school, will be adhered to.

Procedure for Reporting Matters of Concern

In the event that a matter of concern is reported, for example:

Reported unidentified vehicles or visitors in the school grounds or close proximity to the school grounds, in the community

The Principal or Delegate (Teacher In Charge) will immediately:

- Remove students from any risk or danger
- If deemed necessary in the case of immediate danger to the school community, invoke whole school "Lock-In" and follow documented "Lock-In" procedure

OR INVOKE THE FOLLOWING:

- Investigate matter of concern and record details (written or photograph): vehicle/person description, vehicle registration, vehicle/person location, any other details
- If Principal is away, Delegate must contact Principal immediately and discuss the matter of concern
- Report to local Jamestown Police 8664 1037
- Contact Principal of Jamestown Community School and advise of incident
- Contact Principal Consultant, and advise of incident
- Advise staff, particularly class teachers and teachers on yard duty to be aware and vigilant and report any further concerns
- Discern appropriate discussion to take place with students eg. talk about stranger danger, revise strategies for keeping safe and personal protection
- Encourage students to report all concerns immediately to a staff member
- Contact parents/carers of any students making reporting incidents or concerns to a staff member

Where a matter is deemed of immediate high risk to students, the Principal in consultation with the Principal Consultant will contact parents/carers more immediately by telephone or text messaging.

In consultation with the Principal Consultant a letter to the school community informing them of the matter of concern may be distributed.

Resources

Staff are encouraged to seek support in dealing with Child Protection Issues, if they feel that this is necessary. Useful contacts and resources include:

1. Child Abuse Report Line: 131478
2. Principal
3. Centacare – Pt Pirie
4. CESA Child Protection Curriculum

Policy reviewed October 2014 / Next review 2017