



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA CHILD SAFETY POLICY



1. Vision

FCJ COLLEGE is a Catholic Educational Community of Companions living in faith, nurturing with hope, serving with compassion and fostering the unique giftedness of each person, so that they are able to live..... For God Always.

At FCJ College, we believe in the right of every child and vulnerable adult to experience love, care and respect as an individual, and to be given the opportunity to grow to their full potential as made in the image of God.

At FCJ College, we nurture, engage and encourage all students, in a safe, respectful and positive environment.

The policy of FCJ College is to ensure that every child attending FCJ College enjoys a safe and secure learning environment free from any form of harm or abuse and that all instances whereby there are reasonable grounds to believe otherwise, are reported to the appropriate Civil Authority.

It is the right of every child to live a full and productive life in an environment that builds confidence, friendships, security and happiness. Under the national Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2009), protecting children is everyone's responsibility.

2. Scope

The application of the Child Safe Standards are compulsory standards for Victorian schools to ensure they are well prepared to:

- protect children from abuse
- manage the risk of child abuse
- provide support to a child at risk of child abuse
- respond to incidents and allegations of child abuse

This policy will outline the policy and procedures for implementation of the Child Safe Standards at FCJ College.

The Child Safety Framework and incorporated Policies and documents applies to and includes:

- the principal
- all employees
- contractors
- volunteers
- ministers of religion (clergy), and religious personnel (Brother, Sister, Monk)

- others visitors
- students

This policy should be read in conjunction with following related school policies and procedures:

- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Reportable Conduct Policy
- PROTECT Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy, and Procedures

Policy Statement

- The principal is responsible for embedding a culture of child safety at FCJ College and ensuring that all staff meet the requirements of FCJ College.
- FCJ College will implement the seven Child Safe Standards and the Principle of Inclusion.

The Principle of Inclusion

FCJ College must take account of and make reasonable efforts to accommodate the diversity of all children in implementing the Child Safe Standards, including (but not limited to) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable.

The Standards

Child Safe Standard 1	Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety
Child Safe Standard 2	Child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety
Child Safe Standard 3	A child safe code of conduct
Child Safe Standard 4	School staff selection, supervision and management practices for a child safe environment
Child Safe Standard 5	Procedures for responding to allegation of suspected child abuse
Child Safe Standard 6	Strategies to identify and reduce or remove the risks of child abuse
Child Safe Standard 7	Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation

FCJ College is committed to a vision of child safety, and will adopt the required Child Safety policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe environment.

FCJ College is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children and

young people in its schools and has a zero tolerance for child abuse.

FCJ College will, at all times, ensure the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and FCJ College will create and maintain a safe environment and nurturing culture by actively and continually developing and reviewing all policies, processes and practices, informed by emerging thinking and evidence.

FCJ College will provide staff and volunteers in the school with training, guidance, resources and be responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the schools' child safe practices.

FCJ College will demonstrate its commitment to child safety through its programs and operations and the principal will monitor the school's adherence to this commitment.

FCJ College will support, encourage and enable school staff, parents and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child abuse to ensure child safety in our school.

FCJ College will support or assist children who disclose child abuse or are linked to suspected child abuse.

The principal will inform staff and personnel associated with students under their care, including volunteers, contractors and ministers of religion, of the Child Safe Policy and related guidelines and procedures for adherence.

The principal is responsible for ensuring that the school community is informed of the Child Safe Policy and related documents and that these are publicly available and accessible.

At FCJ College, we actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We promote child safety in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.

The curriculum design integrates appropriate knowledge and skills to enhance student's understanding of being safe. Teaching and learning strategies that acknowledge and support student voice are implemented.

We have developed appropriate programs about:

- standards of behaviour for students attending our school
- healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality)
- resilience and
- child abuse awareness and prevention

The principal, staff and volunteers of FCJ College will participate in frequent training to ensure the policy is understood.

The policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are based on honest, respectful and trusting relationships between adults and children and young people.

Policies and practices demonstrate our compliance with legislative requirements and

cooperation with the police, external authorities and human services agencies.

All persons involved in situations where harm is suspected or disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.

Staff, clergy, volunteers, contractors, parents and students should feel free to raise concerns about child safety, knowing these will be taken seriously by school leadership and our governing body.

Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed, either legally or pastorally.

3. Related documents

[Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)

[Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)

[PROTECT Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy](#)

[PROTECT Responding & Reporting Obligations Procedures](#)

[Mandatory Reporting Policy](#)

[Police and DFFH Interview Protocol](#)

[Child Safe Standards Implementation in Schools Checklist](#)

[Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy](#)

[Child Safety Risk Management](#)

[CECV Guidelines on the Employment of Staff in Catholic Schools](#)

[CECV Guidelines on the Engagement of Volunteers in Catholic Schools](#)

[CECV Guidelines on the Engagement of Contractors in Catholic Schools](#)

[CECV NDIS/External Providers: Guidelines for Schools](#)

[CECV Positive Behaviour Guidelines](#)

4. Resources

- [VRQA - Child Safe Standards](#)
- [CECV - Child Safety](#)
- [DET - Child Safe Standards](#)
- [DET - PROTECT](#)
- [CCYP - Reportable Conduct](#)

5. Relevant Legislation

- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)*
- *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)*
- Ministerial Order 870 — *Child Safe Standards — Managing the risk of child abuse in schools*