

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

We identify as early as possible any students who are at risk, and, we devise appropriate strategies of intervention..

(In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat #161)

Context

Newman College has developed the following Child Protection Policy as an overarching statement that provides key elements of our approach to the protection of children and sets the tone for the College's entire Child Protection Program.

This policy is designed to be Newman College's public statement of commitment to the protection of children from abuse and grooming, and a demonstration of the College leaders' commitment to champion child safety in all College environments.

The College's Child Protection Policy fulfils the requirements of the Marist Schools Australia (MSA) Standards and has been approved and endorsed by the MSA Regional Director and the MSA Association Council in its capacity as the College's governing body.

The policy is reviewed at least annually, in light of experience, the effectiveness of procedures and the publication of relevant research.

Objectives

This policy provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing, deter inappropriate interactions and facilitate detection of abuse and grooming within the College;
- the creation of a safe and supportive College environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the College;
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in WA; and
- complying with the Marist Schools Australia (MSA) Child Protection Standards.

Statement of Commitment

Newman College is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and will serve.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people at the College and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and grooming by implementing robust policies and procedures to deter abuse and grooming and facilitate detection and reporting at the College.

At Newman College, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and grooming. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance and as such, is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations, and to maintain safe and supportive College physical and online environments for all children and young people.

Child-Safe Values & Principles

The following child-safe values and principles guide the College's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the College.

- All children have the right to be safe.
- The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
- The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.
- Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Protection Code of Conduct and Staff and Student Professional Boundaries policy.
- The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
- Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our College community.
- Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
- Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Child protection training is mandatory for all MSA Association Council councillors, Members of Council, staff members, Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors.
- Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the College community.
- Procedures are in place to ensure all College premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

Standards of Behaviour

The College demands the highest standards of behaviour for all stakeholders interacting with children and young people in our College environments. Our Child Protection Code of Conduct clearly outlines expected standards of behaviour and the consequences if stakeholders fail to meet the College's expectations.

Responsibilities

The College acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

All councillors of the MSA Association Council, Members of Council, staff members, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.

Reporting Child Protection Concerns

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the College community about identifying key risk indicators of child abuse and grooming and how to report child protection concerns to the Principal. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse and grooming incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, Volunteers, students, parents/guardians and other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse or grooming, are asked to contact one of the College's Child Protection Officers:

Name	Position	Contact Number	Email Address
John Geekie	Dean of Wellbeing (Marcellin Campus)	9204 9444	john.geekie@cewa.edu.au
James McLaughlin	Leader of Wellbeing	9204 9444	james.mclaughlin@cewa.edu.au
Lauren Hunt	Acting Leader of Learning, Health and Physical Education	9204 9444	lauren.hunt@cewa.edu.au
Carolyn O'Connor	Teaching Staff	9204 9444	carolyn.oconnor@cewa.edu.au
Kate Warchomij	Leader of Wellbeing (Lavalla Campus)	9416 9700	kate.warchomij@cewa.edu.au
Therese Le-Sanders	Teaching Staff	9416 9700	therese.le@cewa.edu.au
Paola Rich	Leader of Wellbeing (Marian Campus)	9387 9900	paola.rich@cewa.edu.au
Lara Gray	Teaching Staff	9387 9900	lara.gray@cewa.edu.au

In accordance with the WA Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools, all breaches and suspected breaches of the College's Child Protection Code of Conduct must be reported to the Principal or the MSA Regional Director.

Wherever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger, the Police should be called on 000.

All communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

If you have any questions regarding the College's Child Protection Policy, and how it applies to you, the College's Child Protection Officers are available for advice.

Program Compliance and Review

Newman College is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program and to ensuring the College's compliance with WA child protection laws and regulations.

The Program is reviewed annually and updated regularly for overall effectiveness, in light of experience and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards. For more information, refer to the Continuous Review & Improvement section of our Child Protection Program.