



CHILD SAFETY POLICY

St Monica's Primary School

Engaging Families in Child Safety

July 2022

St Monica's Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Bishop of Sandhurst and is owned, operated and governed by Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd)

1. Introduction

Catholic education is an active partnership between family and school, where families are recognised as the first and ongoing educators of their children. Schools and families partner in the shared privilege and responsibility for children and young people's faith formation, learning, safety and wellbeing.

St Monica's Primary School holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as our school's fundamental responsibility. Our commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

At St Monica's we take great pride in our welcoming school community, engaging environment, and the diversity of our student and teacher base. Our Vision: 'Every Child, every day will be supported and challenged in a faith filled, welcoming and inclusive environment, underpinned by best practice and high expectations'. We value the contribution of every student, to both the school and the community and have high expectations and celebrate academic achievement and human flourishing.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions St Monica's Primary School will take to ensure that families, carers and other members of the school community are informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at the school.

This Policy takes into account the specific requirements of the Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359.

3. Principles

At St Monica's Primary School, the following principles underpin the commitment to family engagement:

- Families and carers should have the opportunity to participate in decisions relating to child safety and wellbeing which affect their child
- Our school engages and openly communicates with families, carers and other members of the school community about our child safe approach
- All members of the school community should have access to information relating to child safety and wellbeing
- Families, carers and other members of the school community must have the opportunity to provide input into the development and review of the school's policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing
- Families, carers and other members of the school community have the right to be informed about the operations and governance of the school in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

4. Policy

St Monica's Primary School school is committed to ensuring all members of their school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at St Monica's Primary School.

4.1 Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal and school leaders at St Monica's Primary School recognise their particular responsibilities to communicate and engage with families, carers and other members of the school community in relation to issues regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- utilising St Monica's Primary School Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy to inform and guide curriculum planning, policies and practices
- supporting staff, through appropriate professional learning, to strengthen their communication and engagement skills and to understand the value and importance of effective communication and engagement
- identifying opportunities for parents and carers to participate in decisions that affect their child's safety and wellbeing
- ensuring that existing policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing are made publicly available so that they are easily accessible to families, carers and other members of the school community
- engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community to collaboratively develop and periodically review policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing

- creating opportunities to ensure that members of the school community are adequately informed about the school's operations and governance relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Ensuring that staff, students and the community are aware of the Child Safe Wellbeing Team at St Monica's, who are:
 - Jacqui Partington (Principal)
 - Chris Todd (Deputy Principal)
 - Danielle Topalovic (Learner Diversity Leader)
 - Maria Hutchings (Psychologist)

5.2 Strategies / actions used by school staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at St Monica's Primary School also have a responsibility to support the school and school leaders in communicating and engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- creating and maintaining open lines of communication with families, carers and other members of the school community, particularly with respect to child safety and wellbeing matters
- liaising with parents and carers in relation to any concerns and/or decisions that affect their child and giving them the opportunity to contribute to any discussions, where appropriate
- ensuring that parents, carers and others in the school community are updated and involved in child safety and wellbeing
- ensuring they act in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy when managing issues relating to child safety and wellbeing.

5. Related resources

- [CES Ltd Sandhurst Family Community Partnerships](#)
- [ARACY Parent and Family Engagement An Implementation Guide for School Communities](#)
- [ACER National School Improvement Tool](#)
- [Catholic School Parents Victoria](#)

6. Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed in consultation with members of the wider community as part of the school’s two-year review cycle of its child safety practices.
- Update of the policy will occur if any new requirements come to hand.

Next Review	31/07/2024
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