



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Standard Five – Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse

Introduction

St Joseph's Primary School maintains a formal process for reporting and responding to child safety complaints, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct. This process is embedded within the School's Child Safety Management System and is regularly communicated to all Staff Members, Clergy, Casual Relief Teachers, Volunteers & Contractors.

The school complies with legal obligations that relate to managing the risk of child abuse in accordance with the [Victorian Children, Youth & Families Act 2005](#), the [Victorian Crimes Act 1958](#) and recommendation from the [Betrayal of Trust Report 2014](#).

Reporting Requirements

[Section 182 of the Victorian Children, Youth & Families Act 2005](#) requires mandatory reporters, (teachers, principals, doctors, nurses and police officers) who 'form a belief on reasonable grounds' that a student or young person is in need of protection from physical injury or sexual abuse, to report their concerns to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Child Protection.

All St Joseph's Primary School staff members who 'form a belief on reasonable grounds' that a student or young person:

- » Is in need of protection, should report their concerns immediately to the Principal, Child Safety Officer or a Member of the Leadership Team before contacting the DHHS Child Protection or Victoria Police.
- » Is displaying sexually abusive behaviours and is in need of therapeutic treatment should report their concerns immediately to the Principal, Child Safety Officer or a Members of the Leadership Team before contacting DHHS Child Protection.

If staff members have significant concerns for the wellbeing of a student or young person they should report their concerns immediately to the Principal, Child Safety Officer or a Members of the Leadership Team before contacting DHHS Child Protection or Child FIRST.

In any case where the staff member, clergy, CRT, volunteer, or Contractor has concerns about a student or young person's general well-being, they should also discuss their concerns with the Principal, the school's Child Safety Officer or a member of the Leadership Team.

The school maintains a Child Protection Reporting Procedure that clearly prescribes requirements for reporting child safety complaints, suspected abuse and disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

St Joseph's Primary School Black Rock	Review Date: 06. 10. 2016	
Version 0.1	Date of Next Review: 06. 10. 2018	

Child Safety Officer

St Joseph's Primary School has appointed a Child Safety Officer responsible for taking immediate action & providing support in the event of a child safety complaint, suspected abuse, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct. The School's Child Safety Officer, in consultation with members of the Leadership Team is responsible for managing the entire process in close consultation with all affected parties.

The School's Child Safety Officer will immediately investigate all suspected Child Abuse claims and will ensure:

- » They contact 000 if a child is in immediate danger.
- » Support of the child, parent and person who report the suspected abuse.
- » Provide support to any accused staff member or volunteer.
- » Initiate internal processes to ensure the safety of the child.
- » Clarify the nature of the complaint and commence disciplinary processes if required.
- » Decide, in accordance with legal requirements and duty of care whether the matter should/must be reported to the Police or Child Protection Services.