

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



St Joseph's Primary School

RATIONALE:

All children have a right to feel and be safe. Teachers with reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student has, or will be, exposed to injury through maltreatment have a moral and possibly legal responsibilities to report the situation to an officer of the appropriate authority.

AIMS:

To ensure that children's rights to be safe are maintained and that each child is protected against injury resulting from physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse or neglect.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- ☐ All employed Staff and visiting personnel need to be familiar with the Diocese of Lismore – Child Protection Policy and Procedures as well as the Diocese of Lismore Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Catholic School Employees (Policy Folder in Staffroom) Principals should report incidences where they believe students may be suffering 'significant harm' as outlined in the 'Keep them Safe' legislation.
- ☐ Teachers who suspect child abuse will initially report to, and discuss the matter with, the Principal.
- ☐ The Principal may choose to investigate the matter further, including a discussion with the child involved.
- ☐ The Principal may then formally report the matter to the Department of Children's Community Services in accordance with 'Keeping them Safe' legislation. All details will be fully documented and retained.
- ☐ Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- ☐ Subsequent concerns about the same child will also be brought to the attention of the Principal.
- ☐ Representatives of the Department of Children's Community Services will be contacted by the principal with the view to providing staff with professional development relating to the signs and reporting of child abuse.

Reviewed: March 2015

Ratified: March 2015

Next Review: March 2018