



Holy Rosary School

Child Protection Policy

To be reviewed 2016

Rationale

When students join the Holy Rosary School community, they will learn of their value as human persons. Every aspect of the school's life will reflect a Christian pastoral dimension. The pastoral dimension of Holy Rosary School includes the mutual care and support which staff demonstrate both towards each other and for students.

Holy Rosary School has a full-time pastoral care teacher, Brother Stephen Barker, who contributes in a special way to the wellbeing and development of students with particular needs. While appreciating the contribution of Brother Stephen, we stress that every staff member shares responsibility for the pastoral dimension of the school. All staff develop the kinds of relationships that will help them respond proactively to their students' pastoral needs. (Mandate, paragraph 37, page 21).

Holy Rosary School is entrusted, in partnership with parents/guardians/caregivers who are the primary educators of their children, with the total education of the child. The staff have a duty of care to students during school operating hours and at other times when a staff/student relationship exists. Staff discharge this duty by taking reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which they can reasonably foresee would be likely to result in harm or injury to the student.

Holy Rosary School is committed to child protection strategies and procedures to ensure the care, safety and protection of all children in the school.

Definitions

Child Abuse

Refers to the long term and/or short term maltreatment of a person under the age of 18 years of age. It is the result of action or inaction which results in harm or injury to a child. Child abuse may be categorised as follows:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse and/or psychological abuse
- neglect

Child Protection

'Child protection' refers to prevention and response to abuse against children. This includes the policies, preventative measures and procedures to protect children from both intentional and unintentional harm. In context it applies particularly to the duty of Catholic Education and individuals associated with Catholic Education, towards children in their care.

Catholic School

Refers to an educational venue as defined in the Teacher Registration Act 2012 that is a part of the Catholic Education system in Western Australia. This includes schools as well as Early Learning and Care Centres.

Principal

Refers to the principal of a Holy Rosary School.

Historic Allegations

Refers to any information alleging child abuse where the child is a former student of Holy Rosary School.

Scope

This policy applies to all Holy Rosary School, its early learning centres, and Out of Hours School Care centre.

Principles

In the best interests of the child, the child protection strategies and procedures to be followed are based on the following principles:

- All staff in Holy Rosary School have a responsibility to care for children and to promote their safety and wellbeing.
- All children have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety. This should be done in partnership with their parents/guardians/caregivers.
- The dignity of the person shall be maintained and respected in all dealings regarding allegations of child abuse.
- The Principal will ensure that all staff are aware of and comply with legislation and policies with respect to child protection.
- The confidentiality of all concerned in relation to an allegation of child abuse should be respected subject to the disclosures required to be made in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.

Procedures

- All staff at Holy Rosary School who identify concerns regarding the sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect of a child must respond according to the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.
- Allegations of Misconduct and Serious Misconduct against Staff – Processes and Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia, is to be followed when an allegation is directed against school employees. These include teachers, administrative staff, maintenance staff or any other staff member.
- The principal will ensure that staff receive induction, in relation to the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia and Mandatory Reporting within the first 12 months of appointment.
- The principal will ensure the school's pastoral care structures reflect the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.
- The principal of Holy Rosary School is an approved “class of persons” in accordance with the Act and is able to take mandatory reports regarding child sexual abuse. The principal of Holy Rosary School has a legal obligation upon receiving mandatory reports regarding child sexual abuse to forward these unaltered to the approved agency (currently the Department for Child Protection - DCP) as soon as possible (usually within 24 hours). Teachers also have the option at law to report directly to DCP.
- Staff shall act in accordance with the relevant section of Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia in regard to any historic allegations of child abuse.