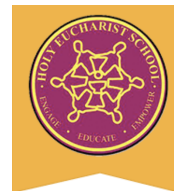




Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School St Albans South.



STUDENT SAFETY WITH EXTERNAL PROVIDERS POLICY

Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School Commitment Statement to Child Safety

A safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people at our Catholic school

The intention for this statement is to provide a central focus for child safety¹ at our Catholic school, built around a common understanding of the moral imperative and overarching commitments that underpin our drive for improvement and cultural change....

...Holy Eucharist Primary School together with the CECV will stay abreast of current legislation and will meet legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our care, including the Victorian Child Safe Standards (Victorian Government 2016), mandatory reporting, grooming, failure to disclose and failure to protect requirements².

¹As defined by the Victorian Government Special Gazette No. 2 (2016), 'children and young people' in this document refers to those children and young people enrolled as students in Catholic schools in Victoria.

²Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School Commitment Statement to Child Safety

EVIDENCE OF THIS OCCURRING AT HOLY EUCHARIST

Holy Eucharist Primary School, together with the guidance of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education.

As a school established by this governing body we have a universal expectation for the protection of children. Holy Eucharist is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in our Catholic primary school promote the inherent dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe school environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including aboriginal children, from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

Holy Eucharist school has a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe. When allegations of abuse concerning children and young people are raised, Holy Eucharist Primary School will take prompt action to have these appropriately referred and investigated. While the context and reality at each Catholic school will differ, the fundamental issues of understanding effective practices in child safety and identifying and responding to child harm remain the same. Holy Eucharist School will strive for continual improvement that is responsive to emerging thinking, evidence and practice, so as to eliminate the possibility of abuse occurring in the first place.

Holy Eucharist Primary School will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm. Effective risk management will be embedded in school life through effective, transparent and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

Our schools will endeavor to employ highly competent and professional staff who are formed and challenged to maintain the safety of all students.

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework to guide decision-making and action in the area of student safety when learning with an external provider.

Aims

1. To ensure that a proactive approach to student welfare and safety is maintained at all times whilst a student is engaged in formal learning.
2. To clarify responsibility for student welfare and safety when learning with an external provider.
3. To ensure that all parties – the school, the student, the family and the External Provider – understand their responsibilities and commitments.

Guidelines for Implementation

1. The Principal will ensure that all external providers engaged by the school enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines:
 - a. The nature of the service or program to be provided
 - b. The details of delivery
 - c. The processes that are in place to ensure the welfare and safety of students whilst engaged in the program
 - d. The manner in which regulatory/compliance will be met by the provider
 - e. The responsibilities and commitments of the school, the external provider and the students
 - f. The costs involved
 - g. Dispute resolution procedures
2. The Principal will be the key contact person at the school for all parties associated with the external provider
3. Parents will provide written and informed consent for the involvement of the student in the external program
4. Any concerns or queries about the external program, the external provider or student welfare, learning and safety will be directed to the Principal

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools cyclical review process.

Reviewed 2017