



# Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School St Albans South.



## WORKING WITH CHILDREN 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 safety<sup>1</sup> 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 requirements<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>As 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.

<sup>2</sup>Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School Commitment Statement to Child Safety

### EVIDENCE OF THIS OCCURRING AT HOLY EUCHARIST

- Every person involved in Catholic education has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.
- 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.

### **Rationale**

All Victorian Schools are obliged under the Working with Children Act, Victoria 2005, to provide a safe environment for students by ensuring those who work with children have no relevant criminal records for conviction, findings of guilt, pending charges and offences, or professional disciplinary records. The WWCC is administered by the Department of Justice.

### **Goals**

Consequently, in conjunction with Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) policy:

- All Catholic school employees and contractors (other than qualified teaching staff, who are exempt) are required to have a Working with Children Check (WWCC)
- All volunteers will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) as per regulations.

## **Implementation**

### ***School Volunteers***

▪ A WWCC will be required for all volunteers who assist Holy Family School as committee members for P&F Association and School Advisory Board. A WWCC will be required for all volunteers who assist as a helper in the school community. For example: classroom helper, volunteers for excursions and camps etc.

### ***School Employees***

- All qualified teaching staff are exempt from the WWCC because they have already undergone National Criminal Record Checks to obtain teacher registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.
- All other staff employed by Holy Eucharist School must undertake the WWCC. i.e teacher aides and school officers.
- Any employed contractor (e.g. trades people like builders, electricians, plumbers etc) who is on school property will also be required to obtain a WWCC.
- Any educator or instructor employed by the school or by parents privately to provide a service to its students on school property must also obtain a WWCC, unless they are a qualified teacher and/or registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.
- There is a process to monitor visitors on the premises through a "Sign in Register" at the school office. This register will also identify if the visitor has a WWCC.

**Evaluation:** As part of the School Improvement Plan

**Staff Members Involved:** All staff

**Date of Ratification:** 2010

**Reviewed:** 2012  
2015  
2018