



## **Child Protection Policy**

### **College Mission**

Cabra Dominican College is a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition. It strives to provide an environment that nurtures and develops young people's unique gifts: liberating them in the search for truth and empowering them to create a better world. Cabra Dominican College is committed to providing an environment in which all students feel welcomed, safe and valued.

### **Context**

Recognising our moral and legal obligations as a Catholic school community to provide a safe learning environment for all students, Cabra Dominican College has adopted the following Policy in line with the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council Policy.

### **Policy Statement**

Cabra Dominican College is a child safe environment where young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Cabra Dominican College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people at the College and support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We recognise that we have a significant role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect and are responsible for implementing policies and practices including child protection curriculum, for the care, wellbeing and protection of children and young people.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all students, parents/caregivers and is supported by staff working within or for Cabra Dominican College.

### **Principles**

Child Protection at Cabra Dominican College is based on the following principles:

- acknowledges that every child is made in the image of God;
- every child has the right to be safe and free from all kinds of abuse;
- child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility;
- the views of the child and a child's privacy must be respected;
- the welfare and best interests of a child is paramount;
- school personnel have a significant role in the prevention of child abuse and take responsibility for implementing child protection practices;
- child protection goes beyond the face to face relationships and extends into the world of online behaviour and interactions.

### **Responsibilities**

The responsibility of all people at Cabra Dominican College is to ensure that there is a total community approach towards the protection of children from abuse.

Parents/caregivers will:

- conduct themselves in a manner that reflects Catholic values and maintain appropriate boundaries with all children.
- encourage their child/ren to seek support and/or report any incidents where their safety is compromised.

Staff will:

- treat children with dignity and respect, act with propriety, provide a duty of care and protect children in their care;
- promote models of behaviour between school personnel and children based on mutual respect and consideration;
- provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for children which allows them to flourish;
- teaching children skills and understanding which will empower them to achieve and maintain personal safety;
- participate in training and development opportunities which provide knowledge and skills in mandatory notification;
- follow procedures under the Mandatory Notification legislation, including reporting any issues of concern to Executive Leadership;
- teach in accordance with the school's child protection and abuse prevention;
- as a condition of employment, staff must adhere to all policies, procedures and guidelines regarding child protection and appropriate interactions with children and young people.

Executive Leadership will:

- provide current information on child protection issues;
- ensure that an inter-agency approach to the management of child protection is fostered and supported;
- ensure school personnel understand the definitions of 'child abuse' and 'neglect' and carry out their legal obligations, responsibilities and correct procedures when notifying suspicion of child abuse and neglect;
- support school personnel directly involved with the handling of disclosure and notification;
- ensure that policies and organisational procedures provide children with a safe school environment;
- provide training and development for school personnel in child protection and abuse prevention curriculum, ensuring practices are relevant and innovative;
- initiate support, monitor and evaluate the implementation of child protection and abuse prevention curriculum at all year levels;
- provide families with information about and opportunities to evaluate the protection and abuse prevention curriculum; ensure appropriate confidentiality of information concerning children in cases of suspected abuse and neglect.

**Related Documents and References**

- CESA Child Protection Policy (2009)
- Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum, DfE (2008)
- Protective Practices for Staff in their Interactions with children and young people (2017)
- National Safe Schools Framework (2017)
- SACCS Policy for the Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People (2011)
- Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice (2016)
- Managing Allegations of Sexual Misconduct in SA Education and Care Settings (2013)
- Cabra Dominican College Student Handbook
- Cabra Dominican College Staff Handbook

**Policy Title: Child Protection Policy**  
**Ratified by Executive Leadership: 2018**  
**Policy due for review: 2021**