From the commencement of the 2015 school year, the teaching of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum has been mandated for all schools, colleges and early learning centres operated by Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton.

To further assist our staff with the teaching of child safety, Catholic Education has developed the Early Years Child Safety Curriculum (0 years - kindergarten age) to support the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum.

The Early Years Child Safety Curriculum was developed by Mrs Kath Byrne, Diocesan Early Learning and Care Coordinator, Catholic Education Office Rockhampton and was launched at St Joseph’s Kindergarten, Park Avenue on Wednesday 9 September.

The Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum has been developed by the Department of Education, Training and Employment to support schools to deliver key safety messages to students in Prep to Year 9. Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton, recognises the importance of embedding this program in all schools and colleges. In addition, the intention is to ensure learning about protective behaviours commences at an early age.

The Early Years Child Safety Curriculum reflects the key messages of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum intended for school-age children. This document is intended to extend this important program to support educators in the intentional teaching of young children in the knowledge, skills and dispositions they require to develop protective behaviours. In addition, there is an emphasis on the connection between the early years setting and the home environment and the significance of effective communication between the child’s family and educators.

We were delighted to have Bruce and Denise Morcombe join us for the launch and welcomed both their support and that of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in the development of this particular component of the Safety Curriculum.

Kindergarten students will now learn to Recognise, React and Report when they feel unsafe or find themselves in situations that can have a significant detrimental effect on their physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing.

Pre-preps, kindergartens and long day care centres in Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton are committed to providing a quality program where every child’s physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs are met in a safe, caring and supportive environment.

Catholic Education’s kindergartens and pre-prep centres deliver a Queensland Approved Kindergarten Program, the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline and long day care centre aligns to the Early Years Learning Framework. The Child Safety Curriculum Early Years (0 years - kindergarten age) has been developed to align with these two guidelines with the understanding that a child develops within a complex system of relationships connecting them with the family, school and surrounding community.

Catholic Education currently operates 8 Kindergartens/Pre Prep Centres across the Diocese catering for 259 enrolled children.

Pictured left: Leesa Jeffcoat, Director Catholic Education, Bruce Morcombe, Kath Byrne, Diocesan Early Learning and Care Coordinator and Denise Morcombe, showing the new Curriculum.

Pictured right: students from St Joseph’s Kindergarten and ST Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Park Avenue, North Rockhampton prepare to release balloons as part of the launch.