

STUDENT PROTECTION

Scope: This policy applies to all Catholic schools and colleges, kindergartens and outside school hours care centres conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

All Catholic schools and colleges and services (hereafter referred to as Catholic schools) in the Diocese of Rockhampton will implement the [*Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines*](#).

2. DESCRIPTION

This policy expresses Catholic Education's commitment to the care and protection of children and young people. It also provides a framework for Catholic schools within which they must operate to fulfil their legislative student protection responsibilities. This policy is supported by the following documents:

- *Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton)
- *Early Learning and Care Policies and Procedures* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton)
- *Integrity in Relationships* (Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton) information brochure
- *Student Protection* (Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton) information brochure
- *Code of Conduct for all Staff in the employ of Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton*

3. RATIONALE

Student Protection is integral to learning and teaching. Safety, security and nurture are fundamental human rights and needs. These rights and needs underpin students' capacity for learning and maximise potential for personal development and ultimately enhancing their well-being and life opportunities.

It is recognised that students are harmed, or could be at the risk of harm, from many sources, including self-harm. Appropriate and responsive interventions by Catholic schools can provide hope to, and foster resilience in students who may be at risk by protecting them from harm and supporting healing.

This policy will be supported by a set of procedures in accord with legislative requirements.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Measures to ensure compliance with State and Commonwealth legislative requirements and Catholic Church expectations will include:

On-going implementation, development, monitoring and review of:

- School culture and ethos that promotes and encourages the reporting of potential harm and abuse
- Reporting processes that empower students to report concerns
- Student protection processes including the reporting of harm and abuse of children and young people in our schools and colleges and early learning and care services
- Participation of all employees in regular mandatory professional learning about student protection
- Ensuring the implementation of strategies enacted to minimise risk of harm to students.

Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton:

- Promoting a culture in all schools to ensure that student protection is the responsibility of every person and is an integral aspect of student well-being
- Providing learning programs for students to develop awareness and skills that lead to their empowerment and an ability to identify risk, act protectively and seek assistance
- Providing additional professional learning for principals, other relevant specialist staff and those who are designated as school Student Protection Contacts
- Assisting schools with specialist personnel and supporting resources
- Providing two (2) hours of Student Protection Training annually for all staff

Liaising with external agencies and partnering within the Catholic Education community will occur as part of the whole community student protection strategies:

- Partnership with parents/caregivers is recognised as an essential element of student protection within school communities thus supporting parents to be educated in understanding what protection means, reading the signs and knowing the dangers as well as understanding the school's and Catholic Education's procedures and guidelines
- Relations with relevant government and non-government agencies to enhance the protection and support of students will be maintained and developed.

2. All Catholic schools are required to implement the Daniel Morcombe curriculum in support of maintaining child safety awareness for students (Prep-Year 9).

5. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- [Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines](#)
- [Early Years Child Protection Procedures](#)
- [Student Protection Procedures \(Outside School Hours Care Services\)](#)
- [Integrity in Relationships Brochure 2013](#)
- [Student Protection Brochure 2013](#)
- [Code of Conduct for Staff in Catholic Schools](#)

RESOURCES

- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2016) [Creating Child Safe Institutions](#)

WEBSITES

- <http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au/catholic-schools/student-protection/>
- <http://www.danielmorcombe.com.au/educational-resources.html>
- <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/school-life/child-safety-curriculum.html>

LEGISLATION

- [Child Protection Act 1999 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Child Protection Regulation 2011](#)
- [Education Legislation Amendment Regulation \(No. 1\) 2014](#)
- [Education Legislation Amendment Regulation \(No. 2\) 2014](#)
- [Child Protection Reform Amendments Act 2014](#)
- [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools Act 2001](#) and [Regulation 2001 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Transitional Regulation 2013](#)
- [Education \(Queensland College of Teachers\) Act 2005 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Queensland College of Teachers\) Regulation 2005](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2006 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education Amendment Regulation \(No. 1\) 2014](#)
- [Education and Care Services Act 2013](#)
- [Education and Training Legislation Amendment Act 2011 \(Qld\)](#)