

**A Message from the Diocesan Director of  
Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton.**

Catholic Education is committed to a comprehensive educational ministry that embraces and promotes lifelong learning.

We aim to live and share the Gospel message and to provide education that supports the holistic development of all students. We recognise that in order to offer opportunities for students to develop to their full potential we need to provide a safe and secure learning environment where students are confident they are protected from harm or threat of harm.

This brochure intends to ensure that all those involved in Catholic Education are aware that policies, strategies, and processes are in place in our Catholic schools so that a safe and nurturing learning environment is provided for all students at all times.

**To obtain further information or to  
discuss any concerns you may have about  
matters of Student Protection, please contact  
the Student Protection Coordinator at the  
Diocesan Catholic Education Office,  
Rockhampton  
Phone 07 4931 3600**

# Student Protection

**A brochure for the  
information of  
Parents, Caregivers,  
Students and Staff**



# OUR CONVICTIONS

*Catholic schools are committed to the holistic care of all students. We believe that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God and have inherent dignity. Catholic schools aim to be communities of care where the safety and wellbeing of all students is promoted and protected. Many parents seek enrolment in Catholic schools because the care and protection of students is embedded in our ethos and values. Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with the school to establish a child safe culture and associated procedures.*

*All students have a right to expect that the school will always act to protect them from any kind of harm. Student protection and wellbeing is paramount in all Catholic schools.*

*“The Catholic school will aim to care for all its members, always seeing pastoral care as a mutual relationship characterised by profound respect.”*

*“It sees all human experience – personal, social and ecological – as sacramental. This reflects a belief that through human experience God touches people with the transcendent and so promotes justice, love and peace for the whole of creation.”*

(From “Defining Features of the Catholic School”  
Diocese of Rockhampton)

# PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES

*Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton is responsible for the ministry of Catholic education in this diocese. Catholic Education sees the need for strategies to prevent harm to students and to ensure an appropriate and supportive response where harm is caused or suspected. Among these are:*

- ◆ Developing policy and procedures in relation to student protection which are published and made known throughout our schools.
- ◆ Implementing employment procedures to ensure that our staff and volunteers are screened and otherwise suitable to work with the young people in their care.
- ◆ Appointing a Student Protection Coordinator and training Student Protection Contacts in schools. Student Protection Coordinator is to ensure there is capacity to act appropriately in all situations relating to student protection.
- ◆ Delivering professional development for our staff in child protection issues and assisting them with appropriate responses to child protection concerns and an understanding of their legal and pastoral obligations.
- ◆ Ensuring that all staff and parents have access to the Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton, Student Protection Processes.
- ◆ Delivering professional development for our staff in the use of these processes and providing support for Principals in using the processes.
- ◆ Issuing a Code of Conduct for our staff which commits all in Catholic Education to dealing respectfully in all relationships and providing training in this area as required.
- ◆ Advising students and parents on how to access information and support in relation to these matters.
- ◆ Making our staff aware that allegations of harm to students will be investigated by the appropriate statutory authority.