



Mary MacKillop

Catholic Regional College

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Ratified – June 2021, to be reviewed June 2023

1 Safeguarding Children and Young People

The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College is committed to strengthened practice for the protection of children in line with the Victorian Government child safety reforms. All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

As a child safe organisation we take deliberate steps to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and cultural abuse, and neglect. This commitment to protecting children is embedded in our school's culture and policies. Responsibility for taking action must be understood and accepted by everyone.

This document includes a number of important Child Safety Policies and practices that work together to create a Culture of Child Safety at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College.

The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount. Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.

2 Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Child abuse includes sexual offences, grooming, physical violence, serious emotional or psychological harm, serious neglect and a child's exposure to family violence. Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse and demonstrates this commitment through the implementation of a comprehensive Child Protection Program designed to keep children safe.

At Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and are committed to acting in children's best interests and keeping them safe from harm. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance and as such, is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintain a child safe culture.

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College commits to providing a safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people through:

a) Upholding the primacy of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

To create and maintain a safe and nurturing culture, Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College actively and continually develops and reviews policies, processes and practices, informed by emerging thinking and evidence.

b) Empowering families, children, young people and staff to have a voice and raise concerns.

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, in partnership with families, will ensure children and young people, are engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety.

This means that the views of staff, children, young people and families are taken seriously and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children and young people are also provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

c) Implementing rigorous risk-management and employment practices.

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate (where possible) or reduce all potential sources of harm. Effective risk management will be embedded in school life through effective, transparent and well-understood policies, procedures and practices. Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College will employ highly competent and professional staff who are formed and challenged to maintain the safety of all students. The high-quality of staff appointments will be upheld through rigorous employment and staff review processes and practices. Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College will stay abreast of current legislation and will meet their legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in their care, including the Victorian Child Safe Standards (Victorian Government 2016), mandatory reporting, grooming, failure to disclose and failure to protect requirements.

3 Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College - Child Protection Policies and Processes

- Child Protection and Safety Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Safe and Student Professional Boundaries
- Our Child Protection Officers
- Procedures for Responding to and Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse
- Five Critical Actions for Schools
- General Legal Obligations to 'Act to Protect' and Report Child Abuse
- The Obligation to Act to Protect
- The Obligation to Report a Sexual Offence
- Additional Resources and Contacts

If you have any further questions with regard to our Child Protection Policies, please speak to one of the Child Protection Officers.

Name	Position	Contact - Ext	Email
Kieran O'Dwyer	Deputy Principal – Wellbeing and Organisation	109	kodwyer@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au
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