



Commitment to Child Safety

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe all of the time. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance for child abuse. At Sacred Heart we strive to maintain 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. We are committed to continually reviewing our Child Safe policies and practices to ensure that every effort is made for ongoing improvement of our Child Safe environment.

We at Sacred Heart recognise that some groups of children are particularly vulnerable and we are committed to promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal/linguistically diverse children and also promoting the safety of children with a disability.

Aims and Objectives:

- To ensure that our students are safe at all times.
- To provide extra-curricular activities for our students.
- To cater for the various needs and gifts of our students.
- Each activity should be conducted with the 'informed consent' of parents or guardians. This means parents or guardians must be provided with all the information necessary for them to be able to make an active and informed decision regarding their child's participation. This includes detailed information about proposed activities, costs, and key dates and times. Specific provisions should be in place for parents with English as a Second Language, are not literate, are sight impaired, or have other particular communication requirements.
- As a School we should consider carefully why we are employing an external provider to deliver parts of the curriculum, especially if asking parents and caregivers to pay an additional fee for this service.

The external provider is required to adhere to the following conditions:

- Provide proof of relevant qualifications.
- Have professional indemnity, public liability and worker's compensation insurance policies and provide a copy of a certificate of currency for each.

- Provide documentation of business registration, including an ABN.
- Ensure that all equipment and activities used in the lessons are safe for students.
- Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to supply information about the unique needs specific to their child.
- Ask parents and caregivers for feedback about program effectiveness for their child.

Please note:

- There will be times when our students will not be supervised when working with an external provider. No provider will work with our students unless they have satisfied our safety / child protection requirements.
- The Principal and Deputy Principal are the staff responsible for Child Safety including responding to and assisting or supporting staff who need to report allegations of suspected child abuse.

Evaluation:

This policy is to be reviewed at least every six months.

The Sacred Heart School Board has contributed to and approved the policy and practise and has continuing oversight of planning and reviewing.

This document was initially ratified on: March 2016

This document was presented to the Sacred Heart School Board on August 15th, 2018

Next Review to be completed by: February 2019