



At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School we believe:

In building relationships based upon mutual respect, trust and care in an environment of justice, equality, compassion and hope where child safety is of paramount importance at all times.

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.

1.0 PURPOSE OR RATIONALE

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the whole school community of Sacred Heart School, Tatura, leaders, staff, volunteers, students, their families, to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and procedures developed to keep everyone safe from harm, including all forms of abuse.

2.0 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO SAFETY AND PARTICIPATION

The staff and volunteers of Sacred Heart School, Tatura encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

3.0 VALUING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We value and celebrate diversity, especially cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) and their families
- promote the personal safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability and make them feel welcome and part of all aspects of school life

4.0 RECRUITING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Sacred Heart School, Tatura will apply the most thorough and rigorous standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all staff and volunteers and require police checks and Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for all staff and volunteers. Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements are included in all advertisements for staff and volunteer positions.

Please refer to Sacred Heart School, Tatura: Recruitment Policy & Procedures

5.0 SUPPORTING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Sacred Heart School, Tatura provides support and supervision to all staff and volunteers so people feel valued, respected, affirmed in their work and fairly treated. We have a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our staff and volunteers, all of whom receive training on the requirements of the Code.

Please refer to Sacred Heart School, Tatura various Code of Conduct Statements

6.0 REPORTING A CHILD SAFETY CONCERN OR COMPLAINT

Our school records any child safety complaints, disclosures or breaches of the Code of Conduct, and store the records in accordance with security and privacy requirements. Our complaints and disclosure processes are outlined and detailed in the following policies and procedures

- *Child Safe Reporting and Responding Policy*
- *Child Safe Reporting Procedure*
- *Child Safe Responding Procedure*
- *Complaints Handling Policy*
- *Community Grievance Policy*
- *Mandatory Reporting Policy*

The Principal has been appointed as Child Safety Officer with specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or students in relation to Child Safety.

7.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is an approach that minimises the potential for child abuse or harm to occur. Our Risk Management Plan outlines and details all aspects of risk across our whole school environment (on site and off site school activities) with specific activity risk assessments. In addition to our general Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse and harm to our students.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other policies and procedures of Sacred Heart School, Tatura concerned with Child Safety and Pastoral Wellbeing:

- *Charter of Sandhurst School Improvement (CoSSI)*
- *Child Safe Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children:* Implemented at Sacred Heart School, Tatura in the following ways:
 - Standards of behaviour for students attending school
 - Behaviour Management Policy & PBIS Policy & Procedures
 - Healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality) – Life Relationships
 - Resilience – Social Emotional Learning Curriculum
 - Child abuse awareness and prevention
 - Bravehearts (Ditto Show annually for P-2 students)
 - Protective Behaviours Program taught annually (P-6 students)
 - Daniel Morcombe Day and program annually (P-6 students)
- Catholic Education Sandhurst *Information for Schools – Child Safe Organisations*
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Child Protection and Safety Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Child Protection – Failure to Disclose Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Child Protection – Failure to Protect Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Child Protection – Working With Children
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura After School Care Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Behaviour Management Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Bullying & Harassment Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Community Grievance Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Complaints Handling Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Camps Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Excursions Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Camp/Excursion Helper Selection Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura **Learning & Teaching Policy**
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura **Pastoral Wellbeing Policy**
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Positive Behaviour Intervention & Support Policy
- Sacred Heart School, Tatura Yard Duty Policy

8.0 POLICY REVIEW

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