

St Jude's Primary School

Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy



St Jude's Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Introduction

Catholic education is an active partnership between family and school, where families are recognised as the first and ongoing educators of their children. Schools and families partner in the shared privilege and responsibility for children and young people's faith formation, learning, safety and wellbeing.

At St Jude's Primary School, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel (CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety).

School Vision

We at St Jude's value a positive community that is inclusive and respectful of relationships, appreciative of diversity.

- We are committed to our faith community, fostering an environment where all staff & students reach their potential as lifelong learners.
- We recognise the importance of family in each student's learning and ensure that every effort is made to involve and inform parents in a supportive and effective manner. We also value the diversity of families and build on the experiences that students bring to the classroom.
- We value and respect each person and carry this into our parish and wider community. We connect the learning environment of the classroom with the parish, local, national and global community in a variety of ways both internal and external, online and in person.

We aim to create a learning community that actively promotes knowledge and skills for a twenty-first century society.

- We are committed to maximising the use of technologies to optimise learning for all (students, parents, staff and the wider community) in an online environment.
- We are committed to building staff capacity, who are accountable to each other, through a shared ownership of teaching and learning.
- In light of our Catholic faith and traditions, students are provided with opportunities to become independent learners, creative thinkers and be selective in the ways they choose to learn. Staff emphasise the quality of learning with high expectations of achievement and support students to reach their full potential.

We will provide an engaging and differentiated curriculum, growing the whole person through a climate of shared culture, and a safe and nurturing environment.

- We are committed to using high quality data and targeted, explicit teaching to ensure students achievement through personalised learning.
- We value every student's well being as the responsibility of every staff member as we move from class lead learners to school lead learners to global lead learners.

- We are committed to achieving a high level of student engagement through planning with students' needs and interests in mind as stewards of our sustainable, global community.
- Students are provided with a safe, stimulating and supportive environment where every student feels secure and valued.
Teachers use strategies to develop investigative and problem solving skills which encourage questioning, reflecting, creativity and imagination.
- A variety of methods of ongoing assessment and reporting are used. Teachers explain the purpose of the assessment to students to guide and enhance future learning.
The adjustment of tasks in both planning and teaching aims to meet the range of abilities and learning styles.
- Students are encouraged to take risks in their learning. They show respect for all learners and acceptance of individual differences.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions that we have in place at St Jude's Primary School to ensure that families, carers and other members of the school community are informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at the school.

This Policy takes into account the specific requirements of the Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359.

Scope

This Policy applies to school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy. It should be read in conjunction with related school policies and procedures, including:

1. Child Safety Framework
2. Child Safety Code of Conduct
3. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Principles

At St Jude's Primary School, the following principles underpin our commitment to family engagement:

- Families and carers should have the opportunity to participate in decisions relating to child safety and wellbeing which affect their child.
- Our school engages and openly communicates with families, carers and other members of the school community about our child safe approach.
- All members of the school community should have access to information relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community must have the opportunity to provide input into the development and review of the school's policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community have the right to be informed about the operations and governance of the school in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

Policy

St Jude's Primary School is committed to ensuring that all members of our school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at St Jude's Primary School.

We implement the following strategies and actions to ensure that we are able to meet this commitment.

Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal, the school governing authority and school leaders at St Jude's Primary School recognise their particular responsibilities to communicate and engage with families, carers and other members of the school community in relation to issues regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- utilising the St Jude's Primary School Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy to inform and guide curriculum planning, policies and practices
- supporting staff, through appropriate professional learning, to strengthen their communication and engagement skills and to understand the value and importance of effective communication and engagement
- identifying opportunities for parents and carers to participate in decisions that affect their child's safety and wellbeing
- ensuring that existing policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing are made publicly available so that they are easily accessible to families, carers and other members of the school community
- engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community to collaboratively develop and periodically review policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing
- creating opportunities to ensure that members of the school community are adequately informed about the school's operations and governance relating to child safety and wellbeing

Strategies / actions used by school staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at St Jude's Primary School also have a responsibility to support the school governing authority and school leaders in communicating and engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- creating and maintaining open lines of communication with families, carers and other members of the school community, particularly with respect to child safety and wellbeing matters
- liaising with parents and carers in relation to any concerns and/or decisions that affect their child and giving them the opportunity to contribute to any discussions, where appropriate
- ensuring that parents, carers and others in the school community are updated and involved in child safety and wellbeing
- ensuring they act in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy when managing issues relating to child safety and wellbeing

External references

Related Resources – Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

[eXcel: Wellbeing for learning in Catholic school communities](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Vision and Context](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Families as Partners](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Wellbeing](#)

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed in consultation with members of the wider community as part of the school's two-year review cycle of its child safety practices.
- Update of the policy will occur if any new requirements come to hand.

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Student Wellbeing
Approving body/individual	MACS Board
Approval date	13 April 2022
Risk rating	High
Date of next review	April 2023

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Related documents	
Superseded documents	
New policy	New