



Child Safety Policy – Student Version

Context

St Patrick's College is a Catholic day and boarding school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established in 1893. St Patrick's College is committed to providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. Edmund Rice Education Australia is committed to providing safe and supportive environments where all children and young people entrusted to our care are affirmed in their dignity and worth as a person.

Background

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), as St Patrick's College's governing authority, sets the policy framework for all EREA schools. These policies have been contextualised for St Patrick's College's particular school environment so that our policies reflect the needs of our students.

St Patrick's College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. All members of the College – including teachers, staff, volunteers, parents, families and students – have a role to play to ensure that children and young people are safe. **Safety means that children and young people are free from physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and the effects of family violence.**

The College understands that some children and young people – because of disability, language, background or culture – may require additional support around child safety. The College has programs to support these children and young people.

If you feel unsafe or believe you have been abused, you can tell any adult at the College.

All adults working at the College have a responsibility to protect any child under their care. They will be able to help you.

- the adult will listen to your concerns and find a way to help you.
- the information will not be shared with the person who is making you feel unsafe.
- information will only be shared with people who can support and protect you.
- in some cases, the people helping you are required by law to tell the police, the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection services and/or your family to prevent any further abuse, or risk of abuse.

If you think someone else has been abused or is unsafe you should talk to any adult at the College or an adult, you trust. Help your friends or any other young person by encouraging them to tell a trusted adult. Even if they specifically ask you not to tell an adult, you still should speak up. It is more important to make sure that a young person is helped and feels protected.

The College ensures safety of children and young people through the following actions:

- adults at the College must meet behavioural standards set out in the Child Safety Policy, the Code of Conduct and the Child Safe Code of Conduct and the VIT Code of Conduct; these documents are available on the College website

- adults at the College are checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children, including holding a VIT registration (for teachers) and/or a WWCC (for adults)
- every year, relevant adults at the College undertake specific child safety training
- adults at the College are required by law to make a report if that adult has a concern about a child's safety
- meetings of the College have child safety as an agenda item for discussion
- activities of the College have child safety as an item for risk assessment

The College encourages student voice on child safety. Students can provide feedback to the College through student surveys, through Student Congress and Student Council or by speaking directly to the Deputy Principal Wellbeing or the Principal. Students with concerns or ideas around child safety are encouraged to speak up.

Status of Policy: Approved by Student Council in February 2021