
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy 2-D3

RATIONALE

CBC Fremantle (College) acknowledges that a common goal shared by all Catholic schools is that students should learn about their value as human persons from the time they enter the College community. This principle influences every level of the College's life so that students learn about their own dignity and value as a human person. The care and attention they receive from all within the College should help them realise this fundamental principle.

The College has a shared responsibility for the pastoral care of students in partnership with parents.

The Principal has the ultimate responsibility for this care, supported by a pastoral care system that requires the full support and commitment from all staff. Within this structure the College, in partnership with parents who are the primary educators of their sons, there is an aspiration to promote the total education of the student.

The College has a duty of care to students during school hours and at other times when a staff/student relationship exists. This duty of care falls under the area of common law that is established by the courts on the basis of precedent.

The concept of duty of care requires that a staff member must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which they can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure the student and take steps to remove those dangers.

This policy statement acknowledges the College accepts its responsibilities for the duty of care of all students.

SCOPE

This Policy encompasses all the College staff during school hours and at other times when a staff/student relationship exists.

DEFINITIONS

Child Abuse in this policy refers to the long-term and/or short-term maltreatment of all CBC Fremantle students, including those who are over 18 years of age, due to action or inaction resulting in harm or injury to a child. Child abuse may be categorised as follows:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse and/or psychological abuse
- neglect

Child Protection 'Child protection' refers to prevention and response to abuse against children. This includes the policies, preventative measures and procedures to protect children from both intentional and unintentional harm.

Historic Allegations refers to any information alleging child abuse where the child is a former student of the College.

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PRINCIPLES

In the best interests of the student, the child protection strategies and procedures to be followed are based on the following principles:

1. All the College staff have a responsibility to care for children and to promote their safety and wellbeing.
2. All children have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety. This should be done in partnership with their parents / guardians / caregivers.
3. The dignity of the person shall be maintained and respected in all dealings regarding allegations of child abuse.
4. The Principal is required to ensure that all staff are aware of and comply with legislation and policies with respect to child protection.
5. The confidentiality of all concerned in relation to an allegation of child abuse should be respected, subject to the disclosures required to be made in accordance with the Child Protection legislative requirements.

College staff who form a reasonable belief a student has suffered any form of child abuse will make a report to the Principal or complete a Mandatory Report (if applicable).

The Principal shall ensure:

- All new staff receive an induction that includes Child Protection procedures and Mandatory Reporting
- The College's pastoral care structures reflect the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Children and Community Services Act 2004 (as amended in 2008) (WA)
- CBC Fremantle The Management of Confidential Information in Schools (2-D8)
- CBC Fremantle Unsatisfactory Performance or Misconduct Policy and Procedure (2-C8)
- CBC Fremantle Student Pastoral Care Policy
- EREA Child Protection Policy
- Allegations of Misconduct and Serious Misconduct Against Staff – Processes and Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia