



Child Protection – Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

POLICY CONTROL

Version No: 1 (Previously SW6)

Adopted: August 2017

Amended:

Last Reviewed:

Frequency of Review: 12 Months



Lourdes Hill College has developed the following Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing as an overarching statement that provides key elements of our approach to protecting children from abuse and sets the tone for the College's entire Child Protection Program.

It is designed to be communicated through our public website as well as through other mediums such as newsletters, our annual report and in induction and welcome packs for the College Board, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers.

The College's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing has been approved and endorsed by the College Board and is regularly reviewed by the Board.

Objectives

This Statement provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within the College;
- the creation of a safe and supportive College environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the College; and
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in Queensland.

Statement of Commitment

Lourdes Hill College is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people at the College and is dedicated to protecting them from harm.

At Lourdes Hill College we have a zero tolerance for child abuse. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, as such is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain a safe and supportive college environment for all children and young people.

Child Safe Principles

The following child safe principles guide the College's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the College.

1. All children have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
3. The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct and Staff and Student Professional Boundaries policy.



5. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our College community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all College Board directors, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the College community.

Child Protection Contact Officers

As part of our commitment to child protection, safety and wellbeing, Lourdes Hill College has appointed a number of Child Protection Contact Officers as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the College community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Child Protection Contact Officers are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Statement of Commitment and the Child Protection Program.

Responsibilities

The College acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

At Lourdes Hill College all members of the Board, staff members, as well as Direct and Indirect Contact Volunteers, have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children. Specific responsibilities for each group of the College community are further explained in the Child Protection Responsibilities section of our Child Protection Program.

Reporting Concerns

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the College community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and how to report child abuse concerns to one of our College's Principal or nominated Child Protection Contact Officers. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse incidents to relevant external authorities.

Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, Indirect Contact Volunteers, students, parents/carers or other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse are asked to contact the Principal or one of the College's Child Protection Contact Officers.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.



Related Policies and Procedures in Complispace

Risk Management Program
Compliance Program
Human Resources Program
Student Care Program
Workplace Health & Safety Program
Child Protection Training
Recruitment & Selection Procedures
Induction Procedures

Program Compliance and Review

Lourdes Hill College is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program and to ensuring the College's compliance with the Blue Card System. The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards. For more information, refer to the Child Protection Compliance, Review and Improvement section of our Child Protection Program.