



McAuley College, Beaudesert

STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY

McAuley College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students and the protection of students from harm and abuse. Our commitment to the protection of students is based on our belief that each person is made in the image of God, and our ethos is to provide a safe and supportive environment for all. All students have the right to expect that the school will always act to protect them from any kind of harm.

McAuley College is committed to:

- upholding the right of students to a safe and supportive environment based on the belief that this is critical to students fulfilling their personal potential and critical to their overall wellbeing
- responding to reports or allegations of harm, including self-harm, to students
- co-operating and working in partnership with the relevant State authorities that are involved in child/student protection
- ensuring that school pastoral care structures address and make appropriate provision for the support of students, families and staff
- adhering to the principles, policies, regulations and guidelines of Brisbane Catholic Education.

Student Protection Measures at McAuley College

Measures to ensure compliance with State and Commonwealth legislative requirements and church expectations will include:

- Ongoing development, monitoring and review of the College culture and ethos that promotes and encourages the reporting of potential harm and abuse
- Employment of a Guidance Counsellor
- Reporting processes that empower students to report concerns
- Student Protection processes including the reporting of harm and abuse of children and young people in our schools
- Participation of all employees in regular mandatory professional learning
- Ensuring the implementation of strategies enacted to minimise risk of harm to students.

It is a requirement of Brisbane Catholic Education that all staff report suspicions of harm or an unacceptable risk of harm to a student caused by abuse and/or neglect to the Principal or other Student Protection Contact.

In addition, the following mandatory reporting obligations apply to staff under legislation:

- all staff are required to report sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse of a student - Education (General Provisions) Act 2006; and
- teachers are required to report a 'reportable suspicion', which means a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm

caused by sexual and/or physical abuse where the student may not have a parent able and willing to protect the student from the harm - Child Protection Act 1999.

Student Protection Contacts

All young people have a right to feel safe. Any member of our community who is concerned for the safety of one of our students can make a report to the College Principal or a College Student Protection Officer. This report may involve concerns regarding physical, psychological, emotional or sexual harm or likely harm or neglect. Reports may also include suspected inappropriate behaviour by a staff member. The Student Protection Officer together with the College Principal will follow legal, mandatory and pastoral care processes to ensure the care and safety of students.

The College Child Protection Officers are:

Mrs Deidre Young - Principal

Mr David Harris – Assistant Principal Religious Education

Mrs Kym Houston – Guidance Counsellor

Further information

Detailed policies, procedures and a complaints submission form can be located in the [Student Protection section](#) of the Brisbane Catholic Education website.