

STUDENT PROTECTION & CHILD SAFETY EDUCATION IN BCE SCHOOLS

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES, PARENTS & CARERS

A commitment to the protection and education of students

Our commitment to the protection of students through making schools nurturing and safe communities of care is an essential part of our Catholic ethos. Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) holds as its basis, the belief that each person is made in the image of God and that the inherent dignity of all people should be recognized, fostered and protected. An important aspect of effective student protection is the education of students about their safety through explicit Child Safety Education which teaches students to recognise, react to, and report potentially harmful situations to a trusted adult.

Child Safety Education in BCE schools is drawn from the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education. This curriculum features *Safety* as one of twelve focus areas, and is aligned with best practice in the areas of Child Safety Education and Student Protection. Explicit Child Safety Education is important for all students, from a young age as it provides them with opportunities to recognise appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, make safe decisions, develop protective behaviours and behave in ways that promote respect and responsibility. BCE have endorsed the use of resources from the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum to support schools when planning for teaching and learning related to Child Safety Education and student protection. The Daniel Morcombe Child Safety resources aim to teach children about personal safety, including cybersafety and phone safety, with a focus placed on three key safety messages: Recognise, React and Report. These key safety messages are also included in BCE Student Protection Posters and supporting materials.

Working together to ensure that students are protected

In all matters to do with the protection and wellbeing of students the whole school community must work together cooperatively for the most effective outcome.

- It is recognised that parents/carers are the primary educators and carers of their children and they are encouraged to work in partnership with the school in the important tasks of student protection and Child Safety Education.
- The importance of supporting parents/carers in their efforts to protect their children from harm is acknowledged.
- All members of the school community work together to empower students through modelling appropriate behaviour and teaching them about personal safety strategies.
- All staff participate in scheduled and structured student protection professional learning in order to assist them to understand their legal, policy and pastoral responsibilities and to respond appropriately to student protection concerns.
- All schools have selected staff members nominated to act in the role of Student Protection Contacts (SPCs). Students know they can go to an SPC with any concern about something happening at school or away from school.
- This contributes to making Brisbane Catholic Education schools safe, pastoral environments in which students feel able to seek help if they feel they are at risk.

Pastoral, policy and legal responsibilities

In fulfilling its pastoral, policy and legal responsibilities, Brisbane Catholic Education and the schools it administers and supports:

- Comply with all relevant Queensland child protection legislation
- Develop, maintain and support a student protection policy and related processes which reflect the pastoral and legal responsibility of school staff

- Provide specialist support personnel and resources at a system and school level
- Develop and maintain relationships and partnerships with relevant statutory, government and non-government agencies in the support and protection of students
- Adhere to relevant internal and external regulatory accountability requirements
- Meet the current professional expectations of schools in Australia.

Enquiries/Contacts

For enquiries in relation to the BCE Student Protection Processes please contact your school Principal, Guidance Counsellor or Student Protection Contacts. The Archdiocese of Brisbane Catholic Education Council’s Student Protection Policy can be accessed online at www.bne.catholic.edu.au

And/or contact: Professional Standards and Student Protection, Brisbane Catholic Education Office GPO Box 1201, Brisbane 4001 | Ph. (07) 3033 7409 | Email. studentprotection@bne.catholic.edu.au

Further Information

Legislation which underpins student protection in Queensland Catholic Schools

Child Protection Act 1999

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act and Regulation 2001

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000

Education (College of Teachers) Act 2005

www.legislation.qld.gov.au

Assistance can be accessed on the following telephone numbers:

Queensland Police Service

Police – Emergency (free call) - 24 hours..... 000

POLICE LINK.....131 444

Domestic and Family Violence Support Services

DVConnect Womensline - 24 hours.....1800 811 811

DVConnect Mensline - 9am - 12pm.....1800 600 636

Immigrant Women’s Support Service..... (07) 3846 3490

Department of Communities - Child Safety and Disability Services

After Hours Service (free call) - 24 hours.....1800 177 135

Legal Services

Legal Aid Queensland.....1300 651 188 (Request to speak to the DV Unit)

Support Services

Centacare Catholic Family and Community Services.....3252 4371

Parentline.....1300 30 1300

Kids Helpline (free).....1800 551 800

Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline (free).....1800 010 120 (women) or 1800 600 626 (men)

Lifeline Crisis Counselling Line - 24 hours.....13 11 14

Child protection assistance/resources can be accessed online at:

www.childsafety.qld.gov.au

www.dvconnect.org.au

www.police.qld.gov.au

www.napcan.org.au

www.parentline.com.au

www.kidshelp.com.au