

## **Marist College Procedures for Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child or Young Persons Sexual or Physical Abuse.**

**February 2014**

The Children and Young People Act 2008 requires that a school staff member makes a report to Care and Protection Services when they have formed a reasonable suspicion that a child or young person has suffered or is suffering sexual abuse or non-accidental physical injury.

The staff member must, as soon as practicable, provide to Care and Protection Services the name, or a description, of the child or young person and the grounds for the person's suspicion.

### ***Under what circumstances might you form a 'reasonable suspicion' to report to 'Care and Protection' Services?***

A mandated person may have a reasonable suspicion to report to Care and Protection services when:

- A child or young person discloses that he or she has suffered or is suffering non accidental physical injury or sexual abuse.
- Someone else advises you that a child or young person has been sexually abused or non-accidentally injured, or
- Your own observations of the child or young person's physical condition or behaviours lead you to reasonably suspect that the child or young person has suffered or is suffering non-accidental injury or sexual abuse.

The mandated person is not required to prove that the abuse has occurred.

Under normal circumstances, neither your identity as a mandated person, nor the content of the report of a child protection appraisal will be disclosed to any other person.

Failure by a mandated person to report non-accidental physical or sexual abuse of a child or young person may result in a fine or imprisonment for six (6) months or both.

**Mandated Persons phone number: 1300 556 728**

**Mandated Persons fax Number: 02 6205 0641.**

**Email: [childprotection@act.gov.au](mailto:childprotection@act.gov.au)**

***If you need any help or support in making such a report the Counsellor's office will be happy to provide it.***

***A copy of your report should be given to Principal for the school files after you have made that report to the Care and Protection Services.***

***Brian Coates (School Counsellor)***