



CRITICAL INCIDENT POLICY

Contextual Statement

St Patrick's College through its Occupational Health and Safety Policy recognises that it has a legal and moral obligation to provide a safe environment for all students, staff and visitors to the College. St Patrick's College has implemented this policy to ensure that any critical incident and /or emergency involving the College and its community members, is dealt with in an efficient and systematic way. This will ensure the safety of all College community members and other persons that may be involved in incidence requiring a critical and immediate response.

Definition:

A Critical Incident or Emergency occurs when there is an actual or imminent event which endangers or threatens the safety or health of a person or persons or which destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, any property.

Critical Incidents can range from small-scale localised incidents lasting minutes and affecting a single school or workplace through to large-scale events requiring state level coordination and assistance from external agencies.

Critical Incidents include, but are not limited to:

- natural disasters e.g. fire, flood, earthquake, collapse, cyclone, storms
- industrial accidents, fumes or spillages of hazardous materials, explosions, bomb or firearm threats
- outbreak of disease
- civil disturbances e.g., terrorism, military conflict
- serious damage to school buildings including collapse or risk of collapse, fire, flood, vandalism, or Acts of God
- fatality, near fatality or serious injury of students or staff, as a result of assault, sexual assault or other criminal conduct
- serious illness or death, through sudden or terminal illness, accident, murder or suicide, of students or staff

- threats, physical or sexual assaults, or violent incidents involving staff
- intrusion into the school, siege, or hostage situation involving staff or students
- actual or attempted abduction of staff, students or others
- out-of-the-ordinary or unexplained disappearance of students or staff
- transport-related accident involving staff or students
- serious injuries, accidents, fatalities on school excursions
- other incidents or emergencies which produce strong reaction or perceived threat or harm.
- forced removal of student or staff

Policy Statement

St Patrick's College endeavours to provide a safe and supportive environment for all members of the College community. In the case of a critical incident or emergency, every effort is made to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all staff, students and visitors.

Scriptural Context

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:30-31)

Implementation

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other College policies and may be amended in response to changes in legislation or recognised industry best practice.

Critical Incident - Procedures:

The procedures for managing critical incidents should be read in conjunction with this policy and the College's Occupational Health and Safety Policy. Full details of procedures for managing Critical Incidents are contained in the procedural manual – St Patrick's College Critical Incident Plan 2013.

The Deputy Headmaster: Wellbeing shall be responsible for the implementation of the College's

Critical Incident Plan and the updating of the Plan in line with changes in legislation or revised industry best practice procedures.

All critical incidents shall immediately reported to the Headmaster and the Deputy Headmaster: Wellbeing. The Deputy Headmaster will be responsible for the assessment of the danger posed by the emergency and be responsible for enacting the College's Critical Incident Management procedures. If the Deputy Headmaster is unavailable then the Headmaster will consult with the next appropriate member of staff: the Deputy Headmaster: Teaching and Learning, the Business Manager, the Director of Administration, the Director of Organisational Development, or a Head of School.

Status of Policy: Ratified by the **College Board, May 2013**

Review: 2018