

Section 3 Appendix 5



**Catholic Education Office
Diocese of Toowoomba**

**Student Protection Brochure
for Parents/Care-givers**

September 2005

What Should I Do?

If a student experiences harm or is aware of another student experiencing harm, then:

Students/Parent

Home Teacher or

Class Teacher or

Counsellor or

School Protection Contact

Report to

Student Protection Officer

Assess the level of risk

Take appropriate action

Note: All reports will be treated in a confidential manner and will be kept.

Student Protection Contacts

Student Protection Contacts ensure everyone in the school community is aware of the procedures to follow when there is knowledge or suspicion of harm to a student.

All students, teachers, other employees and parents are required/encouraged to inform the School Protection Contact when they are concerned that a student is suffering or has suffered 'harm' caused by an employee, other student, volunteer or someone not immediately associated with the school.

Student Protection Contacts assist in the reduction of student protection and safety for all employees and provide support for all implicated when student related 'harm' is alleged or disclosed.

Student Protection Contacts

for this School are:

Student Protection Officer

(Catholic Education Office) is:

Phone No: 4637 1409

Diocese of Toowoomba
 Catholic Education Office
 Ph: 4637 1400 Fax: 4637 1499

Creating Student Safety in Communities of Care

An Information Pamphlet for Parents and Care-givers



Catholic Education Office
 Diocese of Toowoomba

Student Safety in our Schools

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Toowoomba recognise that protecting students from harm and the risk of harm is fundamental to maximising their personal and academic potential. Any form of harm caused to children by persons in position of trust and authority is a serious matter.

This school is committed to implementing student protection strategies and procedures that are intended to prevent harm to students, and to respond quickly and effectively when abuse of any type is suspected or about which we are informed.

This school has a comprehensive Student Protection Policy, which covers the action to be taken if a member of staff or parent becomes aware or reasonably suspects that harm has been done to a student of the school by other staff, people outside the school or by other students.

Each staff member must report all behaviours that can reasonably be considered harmful to children and where it is reasonable to believe that a child has been harmed or requires protection from harm.

WHAT IS A CHILD?

A Child is an individual under 18 years of age.

WHAT IS HARM?

Harm to a child is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. Some common causes of harm are:

- Physical, psychological, emotional or spiritual abuse or neglect;
 - Sexual abuse or exploitation;
- Or
- Domestic or family violence

Prevention of Harm

A number of processes are implemented to prevent harm to students including:

- Ensuring that each staff member understand and fulfils his or her obligations under the Student Protection Policy
- Ensuring that there is an acceptable reference for each new staff member in the recruitment process
- Ensuring each staff member and volunteer who has contact with children has a current positive suitability notice issued by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Parents can support their child's interests and wellbeing through proactive education by teaching him/her:

- To say 'no' to anything that makes them feel unsafe in a manner appropriate for their age, understanding and the activity
- To ask questions if they are unsure about anything
- To tell someone that they can't talk to someone about it
- That they make the decision about who is allowed to touch them
- To identify what is safe and unsafe conduct
- To tell you of any suspicious activities or people

Take anything said seriously and do not dismiss it without following up their concerns.