

SPRMS Appendix 1:

Diocese of Toowoomba

Catholic Education Board Policy

Child and Youth Protection

Rationale

This policy exists to uphold the UN Charter of the Rights of the Child and a commitment by the Diocese of Toowoomba to ensure that children and youth, who are at risk of/or are experiencing 'harm' receive an immediate and appropriate response to their situation and are supported in addressing this most complex and sensitive issue. This response is, in the first instance, inspired by the belief that every child and youth is made in the image of God and must be protected and treated with respect.

While parents are the primary educators of their children, this policy is an expression of our partnership with parents in providing for the safety and protection of all children.

A full list of the legislation applying to the protection of children and youth is to be found on pages 10-12 of the QCEC Manual – Student Protection.

Values

The Catholic Community expresses a strong belief in the dignity of the person, respect for each person and responsibility for the care of others. The Child and Youth Protection Policy embodies these values.

Policy Statement

The school communities in the Diocese of Toowoomba are committed to provide safety and support in communities of care, for children and youth.

Consequences

- That compliance with this policy is mandatory for each person working within Catholic Education in the Diocese of Toowoomba.
- That any behaviour which jeopardises this environment is contrary to the ethos of Catholic schools and will not be tolerated.
- That all suspected or alleged 'harm' to children and youth will be addressed by procedures that provide an immediate response and comply with civil and church requirements. *(For a definition of "harm" refer to page 8 of the QCEC Manual – Student Protection.)*

- That regular professional development will be provided to staff so that a clear understanding of these requirements is understood.
- That support for the principles of privacy and the need for confidentiality will be maintained.
- That systems for the implementation of the policy will periodically be reviewed and updated as required.
- That our schools will provide opportunities for all our children and youth to learn to protect themselves as an essential part of the school's curriculum.
- That responsibilities, procedures and consequences for non compliance with this policy will be outlined in the Catholic Education Office's Manual on Child and Youth Protection.

References

Child and Youth Protection Policy, Province Policy No 2, Trustees of the Christian Brothers (Qld), St Francis Xavier Province, May 2004.

Manual – Student Protection: Creating Student Safety in Communities of Care, QCEC, March 2005.

Towards Healing, Principles and procedures in responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church of Australia, December 2000.

Integrity in Ministry, A Document of Principles and Standards for Catholic Clergy and Religious in Australia, June 1999.

Code of Ethics for Queensland Teachers, Board of Teacher Registration.

National Safe Schools Framework, Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, 2003.

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, A Risk Management Strategy, Child Protection Risk Management Workshop, 2005.

Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba, The Teacher in the Catholic School, 2005.

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