

17 December 2010

Dear Parents,

The Child Protection Policy Review Committee has met on four occasions. Matters considered have included the Mandatory Reporting Procedure and related policies of THE SCHOOL and employment practices. As a result, the Policy documents have been amended to ensure compliance with the Western Australian Mandatory Reporting requirements.

It should be noted that in regard to the employment of staff, whether teaching or non-teaching, the School already requires that appropriate police clearances are provided. For teaching staff, clearances are obtained as part of the requirement that all teachers are registered by the Western Australian College of Teaching (WACOT). The conditions of registration require that both a Crimtrack review is undertaken and that teachers obtain a Working with Children Clearance. While this was not the case for teachers registered on the establishment of WACOT, all teachers registered at that time are now renewing their registration and are subject to these requirements. The Working with Children Clearance covers criminal reports, charges where there were no convictions, and complaints. If a teacher is claiming mutual recognition of registration from another State they are required to obtain both a police clearance and a Working with Children Clearance prior to being granted authority to teach. This also applies to teachers from overseas.

The Committee is preparing a report to the Council on its deliberations, which includes recommendations for action concerning communication with parents, and parent support structures. Other issues which are addressed are protocols for staff members when working with students, and aspects specific to the protection of boarding students.

The Council has advised that it will consider the report early in 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Audrey Jackson
Independent Chair