



CHILD PROTECTION FACT SHEET

Introduction

Kerang Christian College is committed to providing a caring, safe and accepting environment for students. All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe. Kerang Christian College is committed to child safety. We have zero tolerance of child abuse.

Rationale

All adults have a responsibility to care for children and to protect them from any kind of abuse or neglect. The College is responsible to provide a safe environment for children and to provide an education which fosters their health, developmental needs, spirituality, self-respect and dignity. We are entrusted by parents with the care of their children, who are precious in the sight of God.

Types of Child Abuse

Child abuse can have a significant effect on a child's physical or emotional health, development and wellbeing. The younger a child is the more vulnerable they are and the more serious the consequences are likely to be.

Types of child abuse include:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Medical neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Family Violence
- Risk-taking Behaviour

RESPONDING TO A REPORT OF HARM

If a child tells you about harm, you need to be well prepared so that you can be supportive of the student and clear about your responsibilities at the same time. The Kerang Christian College school community has a duty of care to take immediate action.

The person to whom the child has disclosed should:

- Actively listen to the student and never probe for details or ask leading questions;
- Reassure the child that they haven't done anything wrong;
- Talk gently and reassuringly, pointing out you are there to help;
- Do not take a written statement from the child if you believe the incident being reported to you may be subject to mandatory reporting;
- Where the harm is taking place outside the school's control, never assure the student that the harm will stop as that cannot be guaranteed;
- Do not make promises that you will not tell anyone; in fact, you should disclose that you have a responsibility to tell the Child Safety Champion and/or Principal.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE CONCERNS?

- You need to be aware of the indicators of child abuse.
- Document your concerns including any behavioural observations you have had with the child or young person.
- If anyone reports actual or suspected abuse you should report this immediately to the Principal or a Head of School at Kerang Christian College.
- **Call the police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child's safety.**

All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe.

