

# STUDENT ACCESSIBLE CHILD SAFETY POLICY

## Introduction

Our first responsibility at St. Patrick's is to keep children feeling safe. Our school cares for all its students whether old or young, students with different beliefs and different backgrounds, everyone's needs are catered for. St Patrick's school aims to make students feel safe by following the teachings of Jesus.

## Purpose

All staff members have committed to keep students safe. This means that the kids at the school feel safe and not worried or scared that something bad will happen to them. The teachers and staff in the school know how to deal with situations when students feel unsafe and how to help them feel protected and supported.

## Commitment to Child Safety

All students and young people attending St. Patrick's School have the right to feel safe. The students have the responsibility to themselves and others safe whilst in the school's care. Our school has a zero tolerance towards bullying and any kind of unsafe behaviour.

## Risk Management

St Patrick's Primary School knows that it is important to keep our school safe. The students and staff are encouraged to recognise and report problems or things that might be unsafe. It is the job of the school leaders to ensure that all risks are attended to straight away. We should always tell someone if we see a risk.

## Code of Conduct

St Patrick's Primary School makes sure there is a Code of Conduct for all teachers, Learning Support Officers, receptionists, priests, casual relief teachers, parent helpers, other volunteers and workers that clearly outlines the behaviour that they need to show. This Code of Conduct is available on the school website and in the office.

## Hiring Staff and Staff Training

Before employing staff and helpers, St Patrick's checks the background to see if the applicant is suitable to work with children.

Some of the things the school does to make sure they are right for the school are:

- check if there is a police criminal record
- they can be given a trial time
- make sure that they sign the Code of Conduct
- make sure they are respectful towards the students
- make sure they follow the rules as well
- check that they have a Working with Children Check
- see what they did for their last job
- the principal talks to the people that worked with them last to see if they are safe people.

Once they have settled into St Patrick's they get more information and training about child safety, as all staff are trained in child safety each year.

## **Inclusion and Empowerment for all Students and Young People**

All the staff and teachers at our school help the kids understand that they have a right to feel safe and secure. Our student leaders play an important role in ensuring that everyone is aware that we all have rights including the right to be safe. Each year, teachers will plan classroom activities to help us understand our rights. Students at St. Patrick's are encouraged to use their voice to speak up on issues that affect their safety through programs such as Bounce Back and Teach the Teacher.

## **Valuing Differences**

St. Patrick's Primary School values differences and does not tolerate any kind of teasing because people are different. The school looks after ALL students:

- students with different backgrounds
- students that are different shapes and sizes
- students with different beliefs
- students with different interests
- old and young
- students that have different abilities

Everyone is unique and should be valued.