



# ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOL ASHBURTON

## Child Protection Policy

May 2016

### 1. Rationale

St Michael's Parish School is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is stemmed from, and inherent in, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, that is, love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel (<http://www.ceosand.catholic.edu.au/news/publications/38-cecv-commitment-statement-to-child-safety/file>).

St Michael's is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. We have zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone working at St Michael's is responsible for the care and protection of children as well as reporting information about child abuse.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- facilitate the prevention of child abuse occurring within St Michael's Parish School;
- work towards an organisational culture of child safety;
- ensure that all parties are aware of their responsibilities for identifying possible occasions for child abuse and for establishing controls and procedures for preventing such abuse and/or detecting such abuse when it occurs;
- provide guidance to school staff members, volunteers and visitors regarding actions that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the school;
- provide a clear statement to school staff members, volunteers and visitors forbidding any such abuse; and
- provide assurance that any and all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated.

### 3. Principles

The principles behind this policy are to ensure that:

- St Michael's is committed to promoting and protecting, at all times, the best interests of children involved in its programs.
- All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.
- St Michael's has zero tolerance for child abuse.
- Everyone working at St Michael's is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and will report any information about suspected child abuse.
- Child protection is a shared responsibility among St Michael's, all school staff members, workers, contractors, associates and members of the school community.
- St Michael's will consider the opinions of children and use their opinions to develop child protection policies.
- St Michael's supports and respects all children, staff, volunteers and visitors.
- St Michael's is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.
- If any person believes a child is in immediate risk of abuse, **000** is telephoned.

### 4. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the St Michael's School Improvement Plan review cycle.

### 5. Ratification

This policy was ratified by John Whitehouse (SAC Chairperson).

*DISCLAIMER: While all care has been taken in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted by the author(s) or our community, its staff, volunteers or partners, for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies. The material provided in this resource has been prepared to provide general information only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the author(s) or our community or its partners for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on any information provided in this publication.*