ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOL ASHBURTON

Privacy Policy

1. Rationale

Every child has the right to a full and productive life. At St Michael's, we believe that protecting students/children is the responsibility of all, that is, staff, parents and the community.

St Michael's adopts a whole school approach to keeping children safe from harm to ensure our students grow and learn in an environment that builds confidence, friendship, security and happiness.

The protocol defines the roles and responsibilities of the whole school community in working together to protect children and young people from abuse and neglect.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:
- Ensure there is a unified and consistent approach to protect the safety and wellbeing of all students;
- Define the roles and responsibilities of all staff to ensure that everyone understands the role each plays in protecting all students;
- Keep children safe from harm by ensuring staff remain vigilant and informed in making confident judgements and are assertive in taking action; and
- Provide a culture of respectful communication which will enable professionals, including the school, licensed children's services and child protection staff to ensure timely and effective intervention for children and young people who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

3. Implementation

All staff must comply with reporting obligations under child protection and criminal law.

All staff are mandated to:
- Complete the Mandatory Reporting Obligations and eLearning Module annually (Primary school staff are prescribed as mandatory reporters under section 182 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, CYFA);
- Identify any indicators that suggest that a student/child may be in need of protection in cases where the child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child; and
- Make a report to Child Protection as soon as practicable after forming a belief on reasonable grounds that a student/child is in need of protection from significant harm.

4. Additional Resources

The following resources relate to protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

- How to make a report to Child Protection
- How to make a referral to Child FIRST

5. Evaluation

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

6. Ratification

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