

Child Protection Policy (CCS)



CANBERRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NURTURE | LEARNING | CHARACTER

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1. Child Protection Policy

1.1. Rationale

All children have a right to feel and be emotionally and physically safe. As school staff, we have a legal and moral responsibility to respond to serious incidences involving abuse and neglect of the children with whom we have contact, and to report instances that we believe involve physical abuse or neglect. Children can't properly develop and flourish without being in an environment free of abuse and anxiety. It is recognised that child protection is a community responsibility.

The safety, protection and well-being of all students is of fundamental importance to the school. Both you and the school have a range of different obligations relating to the safety, protection and welfare of students including:

1. a duty of care to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent harm to students;
2. obligations under child protection legislation; and
3. obligations under work health and safety legislation.

1.2. Aims

This policy aims to:

1. ensure that children's rights to be safe are maintained and each child is protected against abuse and neglect.
2. summarise the obligations imposed by child protection legislation on the school and on employees, contractors and volunteers at the school and to provide guidelines as to how the school will deal with certain matters.

1.3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Director	Executive Director or Associate Executive Director or delegate
Schools' Company	One of: Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Greater Sydney) Ltd Seventh-day Adventist Schools (NNSW) Ltd Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SNSW) Ltd
TQI	The ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) is an independent statutory authority established by the <i>ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act (2010)</i> (the Act) to build the professional standing of ACT teachers and to enhance the community's confidence in the teaching profession through professional regulation and practical initiatives to raise teacher quality.
Responsible person for a school	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each director on the Schools' Company board 2. The principal of the school
Child and Young Person	The Children and Young People Act 2008 defines, a child as a person under the age of 12 years. A young person is a person who is 12 years old or older, but not yet 18 years old
Mandatory Reporting	Section 356 of the Children and Young People Act 2008 outlines the legal requirement of a Mandated Reporter to report suspected cases of child abuse when they believe, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person has experienced, or is experiencing, sexual abuse and/or non-accidental physical injury.
Mandated Reporters	Mandated Reporters: The Children and Young People Act 2008 requires teachers, teacher assistants, persons employed to counsel children or young people in a school, and individuals who work with or provide services personally to children, young people and their families or who has contact with children and young people and their families, to notify Child and Youth Protection Services when they believe on reasonable grounds that a child or young person has experienced, or is experiencing, sexual abuse and/or non-accidental physical injury.

1.4. Key Legislation

The key pieces of legislation relevant to child protection:

1. *Children and Young People Act 2008* (ACT) provides for the protection and wellbeing of children and young people.
2. Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011
3. Keeping Children and Young People Safe: A shared community responsibility - A guide to reporting child abuse and neglect in the ACT. Available from the Community Services Directorate website.

1.5. Implementation

1.5.1. Legal Obligations

1. This school will abide by the key legislation listed above.

1.5.2. Staff Obligations to Report

1. While the accompanying guidelines set out circumstances in which the legislation requires staff reporting of particular child protection issues, the school requires staff to report any concern you may have about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or young person to the principal.
2. If the allegation involves the principal, you are required to report to the director. This obligation is part of the school's overall commitment to the safety, welfare and well-being of children.

1.5.3. Staff Training

1. All staff are required to undergo appropriate annual professional development in child protection.

1.5.4. Record Keeping

1. The principal will keep thorough records of all child protection issues, incidents and allegations.
2. All reports, information sheets and subsequent discussions and information relating to child protection allegations are to be recorded and remain strictly confidential.

1.5.5. Other related policies and Guidelines

Please note that there are a number of other school policies that relate to child protection which you need to be aware of and understand including (but not limited to):

1. the **Code of Conduct** which sets out information about the standards of behaviour expected of all employees, contractors and volunteers of the school;
2. the Work Health and Safety statement which summarises the obligations imposed by work health and safety legislation on the school and workers;
3. the discrimination, harassment and bullying statement which summarises your obligations in relation to unlawful discrimination, harassment and bullying; and
4. the school's guidelines on student bullying.


Attached to this policy are the following Guidelines:

- Mandatory Reporting Guidelines
- Reportable Conduct Guidelines
- Working with Children Check Guidelines

2. Date of next policy review

- July 2020

Council Chair Signature:



Date:

1/5/19

Version	Date	Comment
Current Version (v. 1)	Aug 19, 2019 14:29	Bree Hills