

# Child Safety – Expectations of Parents, Guardians and Carers

14 October 2016



## Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Marist-Sion College is committed to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people, and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment in which they can develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

### Preamble

These expectations aim to safeguard children and young people at Marist-Sion College against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse, neglect and violence.

Parents, guardians and carers are morally and legally required to act for the wellbeing of the children in their care. This document does not attempt to define this profound responsibility.

**These expectations relate to the involvement of parents, guardians and carers while at the College or involved in school activities.** Those who volunteer are subject to the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

All parents, guardians and carers are to contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. They are to behave appropriately towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

### Acceptable behaviours

All parents, guardians and carers are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from all forms of abuse, including physical, sexual, psychological abuse and neglect
- treating everyone in the school community with respect, modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe environment
- ensuring as far as practicable that they are not alone with children other than their own, unless with the consent of the parents/guardians of that child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of students from all backgrounds (for example, by acting to avoid and eliminate discrimination)
- reporting any school-related allegations of child abuse, or child safety concerns, to the Principal, Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care or Psychologist
- reporting suspected sexual abuse of children to the Police, as is required by Law.

### Unacceptable behaviours

All parents, guardians and carers must not:

- put children at risk of abuse
- engage in behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessary physical contact
- engage in open discussions of an adult nature or use inappropriate or coarse language in the presence of children
- express negative personal views about cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child, including because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the child, parent or guardians
- attend the school in the presence of children under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume alcohol or illegal drugs at school or during school events at which children will be present.

### Responding to Concerns about Child Safety

If concerns arise about child safety, these are to be brought to the attention of the Principal, Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care or Business Manager (or another staff member if these are not available). College leaders will consider these and are to respond appropriately to the circumstances. In serious cases, they will seek advice from the Catholic Education Office and may refer matters to the Police.