

# Student Protection Policy Statement



Brigidine College is committed to providing students with a caring, nurturing and protective learning environment. Learning in a safe and nurturing environment may underpin students' capacity for learning and maximise potential for personal development and ultimately enhance their wellbeing and life opportunities.

Student protection is fundamental to the way the College conducts its operations. The College demonstrates this commitment through allocating necessary resources to the development, implementation, monitoring and review of a Student Protection Program. A student is at unacceptable risk of suffering harm if there are grounds to suspect that unless someone intervenes to prevent it, the actions of a person will result in, or is likely to result, in a detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, emotional and/or psychological well-being.

The College recognises that there are many ways in which a student may be harmed. This may include:

1. Child abuse which includes sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional/psychological abuse and neglect. The College has a legal and moral responsibility to act if there is information to suggest that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at any unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm and there may not be a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm. Harm refers to the detrimental effect or impact of abuse/neglect on a child.
2. There may be concerns about a student's welfare, and that without support or intervention a student and/or their family are at risk of entering the child protection system. The College may refer the student and/or their family to appropriate services.
3. Inappropriate behaviour includes any behaviour, including words, towards a student that is contrary to what is required of staff members.
4. Students being harmed by other students or through self-harm.

To ensure legal compliance, the College will implement the Student Protection Processes and Student Protection Guidelines provided by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Child Safe Standards developed by Catholic Professional Standards Limited.

This Policy Statement applies to:

- all College employees, including non-teaching staff and temporary or casual staff
- volunteers (of all types)
- students
- parents and guardians
- third party contractors and service providers (including External Education Providers)
- members of the College Board
- work experience students and pre-service teachers on professional experience at the College
- visitors

This Policy Statement and the Student Protection Program will be reviewed annually or earlier as required by changes to legislation or best practice guidance.

Approved by Helen Royan  
Board Chair Brigidine College Indooroopilly  
2023

Approved by Brendan Cahill  
Principal Brigidine College Indooroopilly  
2023