



SACRED HEART KEW

CHILD SAFETY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

At Sacred Heart Kew we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel ([CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)).

Sacred Heart Kew is committed to Child Safety. All children enrolled at Sacred Heart School have the right to feel safe and be safe and it is the responsibility of all members of the school community to adhere to the policy and processes put into place by Sacred Heart Kew. The wellbeing of all children in our care will always be our first priority and we do not and will not tolerate child abuse. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where all children are free to enjoy life to the full, without any concern for their own safety.

Catholic schools have a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing school environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and they are safe and feel safe ([CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)).

The following principles underpin our commitment to child safety at Sacred Heart Kew:

- All students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Our school in consultation with the School Advisory Council works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on child safety and protection.
- All students have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety, in partnership with their parents/guardians/caregivers.
- In our school, all adults and school staff engaged in 'child connected work' (when children are present or reasonably expected to be present), including teaching and non-teaching staff, clergy, volunteer parents, volunteers, and contractors, have a responsibility to care for all children and young people, to positively promote their wellbeing and to protect them from any kind of harm or abuse.
- The policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are reliant on honest, respectful and trusting relationships between adults and children and young people.
- Policies and practices demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements and cooperation with the Church, governments, the police and human services agencies.
- All persons involved in situations where harm is suspected or disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.
- Staff, clergy, volunteers, contractors, parents and students should feel free to raise concerns about child safety, knowing these will be taken seriously by school leadership.
- Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed, either legally or pastorally.

References: Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) 2016, Commitment Statement to Child Safety Victoria, Department of Education and Training 2016, Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools Ministerial Order No. 870.

Sacred Heart Kew is a community committed to the safety, wellbeing and protection of all children in our care