



## Child Safe Policy – Student Version

*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)*

St Francis Xavier College is a Catholic community that is educative and supportive. We have a clear purpose: the development of a person of competence, conscience and compassion formed in the Christian tradition; one who is guided by a sense of hope and self-belief and who will be of service in the world. We recognise God's presence in our lives by celebrating and pursuing personal excellence and by living courageously with optimism and respect for all.

Central to the mission of the College is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. Students are assured that all concerns will be heard and appropriate action will follow. No concern will be regarded as being insignificant.

This Child Safe Policy has been developed by students and has a specific focus on safeguarding all children and young people at the College against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect.

### At St Francis Xavier College

- every student has the right to feel connected, safe and supported;
- every student has the right to be protected from abuse of all kinds;
- every student has the right to be protected from misconduct;
- every adult is obliged to ensure they create a safe and comfortable environment for all students in their care. This includes all employees, contractors and volunteers directly and indirectly involved in activities within the College and at external venues;
- every adult is made aware of the ***Child Safety Policy*** and is required to report any breaches to the College Executive and other authorities where relevant.

### To support the safety of children all adults should

- always listen and respond to students' concerns, particularly if the student is concerned about either their wellbeing or that of another young person;
- have relationships with students that are appropriate to an educational setting. These relationships should not involve discussions of deeply personal matters;
- not develop any relationship that is unprofessional including 'special' relationships with students e.g. offering of gifts, uncomfortable physical contact, crossing boundaries of personal space, etc.;

- only be alone with a student for teaching or counselling purposes. If a student is uncomfortable with the situation or finds the content of the conversation inappropriate, the student is advised to inform another trusted member of staff e.g. care group teacher;
- have appropriate online contact with a student about school related matters through the school email system or other school approved or provided communication devices. Exchanging and using personal accounts or contact information (including social media, personal email, messaging, etc.) between a staff member and a student must never occur;
- treat everyone in the College community with respect by modelling *Positive Learning Partnerships* and acting in a manner that sustains a safe educational environment;
- promote respect for the cultural diversity and individuality of every member of the College. Discrimination (this may be against age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability) is not tolerated in any of its forms;
- promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students e.g. by never questioning an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child's self-identity. As a school that has a diverse population of students, adults should be respectful and aware of different cultural beliefs amongst students; and
- not post any information about a student and their identity unless it has been approved by the College Executive.

#### **Adults and students must not**

- communicate outside of College approved communication methods for a period of at least two years once the student has left the College;
- take photos or video footage of students or staff. Photos/video footage taken for official College publications must be accompanied by a Marketing and Photographic Consent form

#### **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed every two years to consider any changes in technology, legislation, expectations or practices.

Implementation Date: September 2018

Revised Date: September 2018

Review Date: May 2020