



Student Care, Safety and Welfare Policy

Context

St Patrick's College is a Catholic day and boarding school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established in 1893. St Patrick's College is committed to providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. Edmund Rice Education Australia is committed to providing safe and supportive environments where all children and young people entrusted to our care are affirmed in their dignity and worth as a person.

Background

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), as St Patrick's College's governing authority, sets the policy framework for all EREA schools. These policies have been contextualised for St Patrick's College's particular school environment so that our policies reflect the needs of our students.

Student includes any person enrolled in the College, either as a day pupil or as a boarder.

Source of Obligation

The Victorian Registration Standards (sch 4 cl 12 ETR Regs) (CECV Guidelines ref 4.1) require that the College must ensure that the care, safety and welfare of all students attending the College is in accordance with any applicable State and Commonwealth laws, and that all staff are advised of their obligations under those laws.

The College must also ensure that its policies and procedures for student wellbeing are clear and consistent with diocesan policies.

The Victorian Registration Standards (sch 8 cl 3 ETR Regs) (CECV Guidelines ref 7.5) require that:

- a senior secondary education provider must have policies and procedures in place that are consistent with any relevant legislation to ensure the care, safety and welfare of students and the provision of opportunities for students with special needs to access courses; and
- if two or more senior secondary education providers share the responsibility for providing an accredited senior secondary course or its components to a student, each of those providers must have procedures in place to identify and satisfy the legal duties owed to the student while the student attends, travels between or undertakes an excursion with the providers.

How We Meet this Obligation

St Patrick's College has a range of student welfare and safety policies that are designed to ensure the care, safety and welfare of all students at the College. All staff are advised of their obligations under relevant laws, including child protection and occupational health and safety laws, at induction and then on an ongoing basis at least annually.

In addition to a high-level **Student Duty of Care (Summary) Policy** which explains the duty of care owed to our students and how staff are required to discharge their duty of care, the College has developed a complete **Student Duty of Care Program** which addresses specific student care, safety and welfare issues at the College and a **Child Safe Policy** which sets out our approach to meeting the Victorian Child Safe Standards and summarises our **Child Protection Program**.



Staff Professional Learning

St Patrick's College has developed a **School Wide Professional Learning Plan** for all staff which includes student wellbeing, critical incident management, restorative practices and the NSSF.

Student Care, Safety and Welfare (CECV 4.1)

Our policies on student care, safety and welfare are detailed in our **Student Duty of Care Program, Occupational Health and Safety Program, Child Protection Program and Complaints Handling Program.**

These programs include, but are not limited to the following policies that enable the College to meet our obligations under Standard 4.1:

- Disability Discrimination
- Restraint of Students Policy
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Supervision (General)
- Supervision (Yard Duty)
- Excursions Policy
- Accident Management
- Recording Student Incidents
- Identifying Student Safety Hazards
- Medication Administration
- First Aid and Medical Treatment
- Individual Health Care Plans (High Risk Students)
- Medical Records (Students)
- Critical Incident (Emergency Situations) Response
- Cyber Safety
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Grooming
- Reportable Conduct Policy
- Failure to Protect
- The Obligation to Report a Sexual Offence (Failure to Disclose)
- Child Protection Training

Child Safety

In accordance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order No. 870, the College has developed and implemented a complete **Child Protection Program**. This Program enables the College to effectively manage the risk of child abuse in all College environments, promptly and appropriately respond to all allegations of child abuse, meet our duty under the Wrongs Act 1958 (Vic) to take reasonable precautions to prevent the abuse of a child and maintain a zero tolerance approach to child abuse. Refer to **Child Safety Compliance** for more information.

The College ensures that all mandatory reporters complete the Department of Education and Training Mandatory Reporting eLearning module each year.



The College:

- makes policies and procedures and other documentation supporting the child safe standards available on the College website
- must be able to clearly demonstrate that they have embedded a culture of child safety and that the matter is taken very seriously
- has a Visitors Register which is maintained
- ensures that all staff receive frequent professional development to enable them to manage the requirements of this standard.

Communication

These policies and procedures are communicated to staff, students, guardians, parents and the College community through:

- the parent portal - Parent Access Module (PAM)
- the St Patrick's College website
- Staff Handbook
- Student Handbook
- announcements in the weekly newsletter.

Implementation

St Patrick's College has set up a series of compliance tasks in **CompliSpace Assurance**, to ensure that key obligations under the Victorian Registration Standards and CECV Guidelines are managed effectively.

Status of Policy

This policy has been developed by CompliSpace.

This policy was extracted from the CompliSpace portal on 7 July 2021.

This policy has been endorsed by the College Advisory Council on [date].

This policy is due to be updated in 12 months from the date endorsed by the College Advisory Council unless required earlier.