

## Child Safety & Wellbeing Policy Easy Read Version



St Mary's College wrote this policy.

When you see the word '**we**', it means St Mary's College.

When you see the word '**partner**' school, it means Holy Trinity, Marymede, Aquinas, St John's, Salesian and Thomas Carr.

A **policy** is a plan for how we should do things.

Our policies are where our rules come from.



This easy read policy is a summary of another policy. This means it only includes the most important ideas.

You can find the other policy on our website at [smdeaf.vic.edu.au](http://smdeaf.vic.edu.au)

## Why we have this policy

We think the care and safety of children and young people is important.

This policy is about keeping children safe from abuse.

**Abuse** is when someone treats you badly.

**Abuse** can be when someone hurts you physically, says mean things or makes you do sexual things you don't want to do.



This policy talks about the things that we do to keep children and young people **safe** at school.

At **school** means our buildings, in the yard, online and in other places used by the school.

This policy is for all people that work in our school such as teachers, support officers, volunteers and gardeners.

## Why this is important

Students have a right to be safe from harm.

It is everyone in our school's responsibility to keep children safe.

The school's policies and things we do should make sure there is trust and respect between adults and children.

People that work in our partner schools think the same way as we do about keeping children safe.

When something harmful involves our students who are:

- deaf and hard of hearing,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children,
- children who are gender diverse or
- from other cultures,

we will be careful and respectful in how we work with them.



## What is important for students who are deaf or hard of hearing

Our students may not know as many words as other students and find it hard to understand or talk about things that make them feel or be unsafe.

Our students may need extra help when talking to an adult or the police with communication such as:

- A Roger FM
- Auslan interpreter or
- help from a teacher of the deaf

Aboriginal children might need help from a person who understands their culture



## How we will help our students who report abuse.

We will make sure they have extra help if they need to talk about something.

We will always listen carefully and do something about anything our students tell us.

We will follow the government's PROTECT rules about how to report or tell someone else about a student who may need protection.



Anything said about something harmful will be shared carefully and only with people who need to know.

## Our responsibilities

School leaders meet regularly to see if our programs and rules are working and fix any problems quickly.

School leaders get ideas from staff, students and our partner schools about how to improve child safety.

School teachers teach our students how to know when they are not safe.

School teachers and other staff will do something if they are told about abuse of a child.

We will not allow anyone to be **racist** towards a student, **bully** a student online or in person or make a student feel not an **accepted** and important person in our school.

The school Child Safety committee will make sure all this happens.



## How we will help students be safe

All students have **classes that teach** the right way for children and adults to behave, what healthy and respectful relationships look like and how to feel strong enough to **speak up**.

We help our students have a **friend**, be involved in school life and know what to say and do to keep safe.

We are open and talk with **parents and carers** about how we can work together to keep everyone safe.



All our teachers make sure that they continue to learn every year how to **keep students safe** from abuse and **how to report** a risk of child abuse.



## Other things we do to protect our students

We only let **new people** work in the school who have a Victorian Institute of Teaching check, a Working with Children Check, a police record check and have someone who can say they are a safe person to work around children.

All new people in the school have to **learn how to keep children safe** from abuse before they start working with us.



All new people to the school have to learn that some students may need extra help or a different type of help because they have a **disability**, are from a **different country**, are **Aboriginal**, don't **live at home** or identify as a **LGBTIQ+** student.

