



Francis Jordan Catholic School

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CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Rationale

From the moment they join the Francis Jordan Catholic School community, students should learn of their value as human persons. Every aspect of the school's life should reflect a Christian pastoral dimension. The pastoral dimension of our Catholic school needs to include the mutual care and support staff demonstrate both towards each other and for their students.

Francis Jordan Catholic School has a staff member in a counselling role. This person contributes in a special way to the wellbeing and development of students with particular needs. While appreciating the contribution of this person, we stress that every staff member shares responsibility for the pastoral dimension of Francis Jordan Catholic school, in accordance with the Framework for the Development of Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools. We call on all staff to develop the kinds of relationships that will help them respond proactively to their students' pastoral needs. (Mandate, paragraph 37, page 21).

Francis Jordan Catholic School is entrusted, in partnership with parents/guardians/caregivers who are the primary educators of their children, with the total education of the child. Our Catholic school staff therefore have a duty of care to students during school operating hours and at other times when a staff/student relationship exists. Staff discharge this duty by taking reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which they can reasonably foresee would be likely to result in harm or injury to the student.

Francis Jordan Catholic School is committed to child protection strategies and procedures to ensure the care, safety and protection of all children in our care.

Definitions

Child Abuse

Refers to the long term and/or short term maltreatment of a person under the age of 18 years of age. It is the result of action or inaction which results in harm or injury to a child. Child abuse may be categorised as follows:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse and/or psychological abuse
- neglect

Greater detail on the definitions of child abuse may be found in the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.

Child Protection

‘Child protection’ refers to prevention and response to abuse against children. This includes the policies, preventative measures and procedures to protect children from both intentional and unintentional harm. In context, it applies particularly to individuals associated with Francis Jordan Catholic School, towards children in their care.

Historic Allegations

Refers to any information alleging child abuse where the child is a former student of Francis Jordan Catholic School.

Principles

In the best interests of the child, the child protection strategies and procedures to be followed are based on the following principles:

- All staff at Francis Jordan Catholic School have a responsibility to care for children and to promote their safety and wellbeing.
- All children at Francis Jordan Catholic School have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety. This should be done in partnership with their parents/guardians/caregivers.

- The dignity of the person shall be maintained and respected in all dealings regarding allegations of child abuse.
- The Principal is required to ensure that all staff are aware of, and comply with, legislation and policies with respect to child protection.
- The confidentiality of all concerned in relation to an allegation of child abuse should be respected subject to the disclosures required to be made in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.

Procedures

1. All Francis Jordan Catholic School staff who identify concerns regarding the sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect of a child must respond according to the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.
2. Allegations of Misconduct and Serious Misconduct against Staff – Processes and Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia, is to be followed when an allegation is directed against school employees. These include teachers, administrative staff, grounds staff or any other staff member.
3. The Principal shall ensure that staff receive induction, in relation to the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia and Mandatory Reporting within the first 12 months of appointment.
4. The principal shall ensure the school's pastoral care structures reflect the Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia.
5. The Principal of Francis Jordan Catholic School is an approved “class of persons” in accordance with the Act and are able to take mandatory reports regarding child sexual abuse. The Principal has a legal obligation upon receiving mandatory reports regarding child sexual abuse to forward these unaltered to the approved agency (currently the Department for Child Protection - DCP) as soon as possible (usually within 24 hours). Teachers also have the option at law to report directly to DCP.

6. All staff at Francis Jordan Catholic School shall act in accordance with the relevant section of Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia in regard to any historic allegations of child abuse.

References

- Framework for the Development of Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools
- Bishops of Western Australia 2009, Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 – 2015
- CECWA policy statement 2-D8 The Management of Confidential Information in Schools
- The Child Protection Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia
- Allegations of Misconduct and Serious Misconduct Against Staff – Processes and Procedures for Catholic Schools in Western Australia
- Towards Healing, Principles and Procedures in Responding to Complaints of Sexual Abuse Against Personnel of the Catholic Church in Australia

Related Document

- Children and Community Services Act 2004 (as amended in 2008) (WA)

DATE REVIEW: 2017

TO BE REVIEWED: 2019