



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School Child- friendly edition of our Child Safety Policy June 2022

Co written by the Year 6 student leaders of 2018, redrafted by the Year 5 and 6 student leaders of 2022

## Introduction

### Vision

St Bernadette's Catholic School Community strives to create a faith-filled contemporary learning environment. In communion we celebrate and embrace diversity. We honour our history and traditions to create a future which enhances and inspires.

### God Loves Us – Let Us Love God



### Values

Welcome Respect Faithfulness Empathy Honesty Inclusion Equity Collaboration

Our school is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of all students. We aim to provide students with a safe, comfortable and happy place to learn. Our school vision and values, show that we encourage all to live a faith filled life by respecting and including everyone. The school has many ways to keep us safe from harm.

## Purpose

This policy aims to show the strong commitment St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School has to keeping students safe and to ensuring they feel comfortable at school. An important part of this policy is to make sure the school has procedures to protect students from being in unsafe situations. The teachers and staff in the school know what to do if a student says they feel unsafe. This policy applies to all staff and students.

## Principles

- All students deserve safety and protection from harm
- Our school works with families and the community to make sure all students are safe
- All students have the right to an education and to learn about personal safety
- All community members have a responsibility to care for children and young people, to positively promote their wellbeing and to protect them from any kind of harm.
- The policies, codes of conduct and guidelines for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are based on honest, respectful and trusting relationships between adults and young people.



- All Policies and procedures follow the law
- All community members should feel free to talk about their worries about child safety
- All people should be treated with respect
- People's privacy is important and information will only be given to others if they need to know.

## Commitments

All students at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School have the right to feel safe and be safe. The most important thing is the wellbeing of students in our care. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where students are free to enjoy life without needing to worry about their safety.

At St Bernadette's we value differences and include all.

We care for, helps and looks after ALL students;

- Students from different cultures, with different beliefs or religious backgrounds
- Students at any stage of learning
- Students with any learning need or disability
- Students that are different sizes
- Students with different strengths and abilities
- Students with different preferences

## Expectations of our School Staff

Staff at St Bernadette's are committed to:

- Listening to the concerns and needs of students
- Checking in with students and using morning meetings and SEL sessions
- Planning for the safety of students in all situations and minimising the risk of harm
- Taking action quickly if a child is in danger, feels unsafe or raises a concern about safety
- Encouraging student voice by supporting students in speaking up and sharing their ideas
- Raising awareness by educating students about safety
- Following the code of conduct
- Knowing the laws, school policies and procedures around Child Safety



## Student Participation



At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we encourage all students to talk about things that are important to them and tell others about their concerns and views or opinions.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe and enable them to understand, identify, discuss and report on child safety. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

At St Bernadette's:

- All year levels are educated about student safety and wellbeing.
- Peer mediators are on yard to help other students in need

- Student voice is encouraged throughout the school and in the learning spaces by supporting student contributions in discussions
- Communication skills are taught throughout the school
- Students lead assemblies to build confidence and courage to speak in front of others

## Reporting and Responding

- Students are encouraged to approach any teacher or staff member they feel comfortable with, to report feeling unsafe, worried or uncomfortable at any time.
- All staff have been trained and know what to do if a child feels unsafe or is concerned about the safety of others.
- Staff act quickly in response to student, parent or community member's concerns about safety.
- St Bernadette's has a Child Safety Officer to ensure the safety of all students.

## Hiring and Training of Staff

Before employing staff and volunteers we check people's backgrounds and make sure they are suitable to work with children. Some of the things the school does to make sure we get the right people working at our school are:

- Check if they have a police criminal record
- Make sure they read and sign the Code of Conduct
- Make sure they are nice, approachable and caring towards students
- Make sure they follow the rules
- Check their Working with Children Check
- See what they did for their last job
- Mr Gill talks to the people they worked for last to see if they are safe people.

Once they have settled in at St Bernadette's they get more information and training about child safety.

Every year the staff at St Bernadette's complete training about child safety.

## Risk Management

In all situations teachers think about the student's safety and consider the possible risks. They prepare and put things in place to keep students as safe as possible.

If a risk is noticed it should be reported.

## Supporting Documents

Supporting documents can be found on the Student Wellbeing page on the St Bernadette's website.

## Communication

This policy and the supporting documents can all be found on our school website and will be posted on Seesaw.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed in July 2024.