

## **CHILD PROTECTION REPORTING POLICY**

### **Preamble**

Protection for children and young people is based upon the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and that the inherent dignity of all should be recognised and fostered.

St Monica's College is entrusted with the holistic education of the child in partnership with parents, guardians and caregivers, who are the primary educators of their children. College staff therefore, have a duty of care to students 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 and to work for the positive wellbeing of the child.

Under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020*, protecting children is everyone's responsibility – parents, communities, governments and business all have a role to play. In Victoria, a joint protocol, *Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people*, involving the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Child Protection, the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) and licensed children's services, exist to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. All teachers, other staff, Parish Priests, Canonical and Religious Order administrators of Catholic schools within Victoria must understand and abide by the professional, moral and legal obligations to implement child protection and child safety policies, protocols and practices.

Schools must comply with the legal obligations that relate to managing the risk of child abuse under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)* the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)* and the recommendations of the *Betrayal of Trust Report*.

### **Policy**

St Monica's College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students and complies with all mandated legal obligations related to mandatory reporting and managing the risk of child abuse.

The College acts in accordance with the Catholic Education Melbourne Policy 2.19 Child Protection- Reporting Obligations <http://www.cem.edu.au/publications-policies/policy/policy-2.19-child-protection-repoting-obligations/> endorsed by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

Mandatory reporting obligations and protocols as documented in the above mentioned policy section 2.19a <http://www.cem.edu.au/publications-policies/policy/policy-2.19a-police-and-dhhs-interview-protocols/> are outlined in the St Monica's College, Staff Handbook. These protocols include guidelines relating to Victoria Police and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Interview Protocols.

The College will review and update these protocols and procedures as advised by Catholic Education Melbourne and the VRQA.

*This policy was approved by the College Board in February 2016 and will be reviewed and updated as required.*