Child Protection Fact Sheet for Adults

Introduction

Creek Street Christian College (hereafter 'the College") is committed to providing a caring, safe, and accepting environment for students. All children have a right to feel safe. The College is committed to child safety, and we have a zero tolerance to child abuse. The College are guided by the Child Safe Standards effective from 1 July 2022: About Child Safe Standards | Victorian Government (www.vic.gov.au)

All adults have a responsibility to care for children and to protect them from any kind of abuse or neglect. The College is responsible to provide a safe environment for children and to provide an education which supports their social, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.

In the 21st Century, diversity has become an exceedingly important consideration for schools. A focus on diversity can increase inclusion and create a fairer and more inclusive community.

The College has a diverse community and is therefore sensitive to the diversity and characteristics of the College community, including, but not limited to gender, racial, ethnic, age, experience, socioeconomic, ability, sexual orientation, cultural, religious, skill, political and educational.

We are entrusted by parents to care for their children as individuals created and valued by God.

Types of Child abuse

Child abuse has a significant effect on a child's physical or emotional health, development, and well-being. The younger a child is the more vulnerable they are and the more serious the consequences are likely to be.

Types of child abuse include physical, emotional, neglect, medical neglect, sexual abuse, family violence and risk-taking behaviour.

Responding to a report of harm

If a child tells you about harm, you need to be well prepared so that you can be supportive of the student and clear about your responsibilities at the same time. The College community has a duty of care to take immediate action.

The person to whom the child has disclosed should:

- Actively listen to the student and never probe for details or ask leading questions
- Reassure the child that they haven't done anything wrong
- Talk gently and reassuringly, pointing out you are there to help
- Where the harm is taking place outside the College's control, never assure the student that the harm will stop as that cannot be guaranteed
- Do not make promises that you will not tell anyone; in fact, you should disclose that you have a responsibility to report tell the Principal
- The Principal will usually report the concerns: https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mandatory-reporting

What do you do if you have any concerns?

- You need to be aware of the indicators of child abuse
- Document your concerns including any behavioural observations you have had with the child or young person
- If anyone reports actual or suspected abuse you should report this immediately to the Principal
- Our Chaplains are also available to speak with parents and students
- **Call the police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child's safety**
- Contact Child Protection
    - To make a report, contact the child protection intake service covering the local government area (LGA) where the child normally resides. Telephone numbers to make a report during business hours (8.45am-5.00pm), Monday to Friday, are listed below.
        - North Division intake: 1300 664 977
        - South Division intake: 1300 655 795
        - East Division intake: 1300 360 391
        - West Division intake - metropolitan: 1300 664 977
        - West Division intake - rural and regional: 1800 075 599.

All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe.
Our College has a zero tolerance to child abuse.