

# St Aloysius Catholic Primary School

## Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy



St Aloysius Catholic Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

## Introduction

Catholic education is an active partnership between family and school, where families are recognised as the first and ongoing educators of their children. Schools and families partner in the shared privilege and responsibility for children and young people's faith formation, learning, safety and wellbeing.

At St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel (CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety).

## Our School Vision and Mission

The Staff recognizes the right of each child to a complete education and therefore the curriculum of our school need to foster the total development of each child:

Spiritually  
Academically  
Aesthetically  
Emotionally  
Socially  
Culturally and  
Physically.

As members of St Aloysius School Staff we strive to be a faith-filled, dynamic community who proclaim the mission of Jesus. We believe it is essential that we aim to promote the self-esteem of others and that we assist children to feel positive about the future.

## Our Mission Statements:

- To develop in children an awareness and appreciation of the environment in which they live and respect for it as part of God's creation.
- To develop an appreciation of education as a lifelong process that enables individuals to adapt in a rapidly changing technological society.
- That through education one develops an understanding of self, others, our society and the world in which we live.
- To assist students to develop skills, attitudes, values and actions which will support them in becoming valued effective members of our society.
- To cultivate an environment where children, parents and staff grow together in a Catholic community. To have time for reflection so the Spirit of God can be seen in action.
- To endeavour to show each child that they are special and individually loved for whom they are.
- To foster a spirit of acceptance, appreciation, sharing and friendly cooperation with all others in our school community. Our school needs to be a happy place where people respect and support each other.
- To facilitate the professional development of staff, who can then use these new ideas for the benefit of our children

- To facilitate a relationship between staff/parents so that parents too can understand the changes that are taking place in the education process.
- To provide a variety of experiences that encourage children to participate to the maximum of their abilities.
- To build and expand the experience of our children so that each comes to a fuller realization of belonging to a faith and wider community.

## Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions that we have in place at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School to ensure that families, carers and other members of the school community are informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at the school.

This Policy takes into account the specific requirements of the Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359.

## Scope

This Policy applies to school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy. It should be read in conjunction with related school policies and procedures, including:

1. Child Safety Framework
2. Child Safety Code of Conduct
3. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
4. Working With Children Check Policy

## Principles

At St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, the following principles underpin our commitment to family engagement:

- Families and carers should have the opportunity to participate in decisions relating to child safety and wellbeing which affect their child.
- Our school engages and openly communicates with families, carers and other members of the school community about our child safe approach.
- All members of the school community should have access to information relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community must have the opportunity to provide input into the development and review of the school's policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community have the right to be informed about the operations and governance of the school in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

## Policy

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all members of our school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School.

We implement the following strategies and actions to ensure that we are able to meet this commitment.

### Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal, the school governing authority and school leaders at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School recognise their particular responsibilities to communicate and engage with families, carers and other

members of the school community in relation to issues regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- utilising the St Aloysius Catholic Primary School Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy to inform and guide curriculum planning, policies and practices
- supporting staff, through appropriate professional learning, to strengthen their communication and engagement skills and to understand the value and importance of effective communication and engagement
- identifying opportunities for parents and carers to participate in decisions that affect their child's safety and wellbeing
- ensuring that existing policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing are made publicly available so that they are easily accessible to families, carers and other members of the school community
- engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community to collaboratively develop and periodically review policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing
- creating opportunities to ensure that members of the school community are adequately informed about the school's operations and governance relating to child safety and wellbeing

### **Strategies / actions used by school staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy**

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School also have a responsibility to support the school governing authority and school leaders in communicating and engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- creating and maintaining open lines of communication with families, carers and other members of the school community, particularly with respect to child safety and wellbeing matters
- liaising with parents and carers in relation to any concerns and/or decisions that affect their child and giving them the opportunity to contribute to any discussions, where appropriate
- ensuring that parents, carers and others in the school community are updated and involved in child safety and wellbeing
- ensuring they act in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy when managing issues relating to child safety and wellbeing

At St Aloysius Catholic Primary School we have developed a range of strategies and actions that support our engagement with families, carers and our community.

These include:

- regular newsletter items
- utilising Digital communication - Seesaw, Skoolbag, etc
- parent information nights focussing on - wellbeing, resilience, mental health and cyber safety.

## **External references**

### **Related Resources – Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools**

[eXcel: Wellbeing for learning in Catholic school communities](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Vision and Context](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Families as Partners](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Wellbeing](#)

## Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed in consultation with members of the wider community as part of the school's two-year review cycle of its child safety practices.
- Update of the policy will occur if any new requirements come to hand.

<b>Responsible director</b>	Director, Learning and Regional Services
<b>Policy owner</b>	General Manager, Student Wellbeing
<b>Approving body/individual</b>	MACS Board
<b>Approval date</b>	13 April 2022
<b>Risk rating</b>	High
<b>Date of next review</b>	April 2023

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
<b>Related documents</b>	
<b>Superseded documents</b>	
<b>New policy</b>	New