

May our children flourish

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

strives to create an environment where children are safe, respected and cared for

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| We have established the Office of Professional Conducts & Ethics which can be contacted on 9926 5677 for assistance with any child safety issues. | ✓ |
| We have a Child Safety Policy that provides an outline of the child safety policies, procedures and strategies our organisation has developed to keep children safe from harm. You can obtain a copy from our website. | ✓ |
| We have a policy called “May our children flourish - Code of Conduct for Caring for Children” that is designed, amongst other things, to assist people who arrange children’s activities to plan and carry out their work with the well-being of the children involved front-of-mind. You can obtain a copy from our website. | ✓ |
| “May our children flourish” contains a code of conduct that clearly states the requirements we have for all our staff in their dealings with children. Copies of the Code of Conduct are displayed in work spaces where employees have contact with children in the course of their employment. | ✓ |
| We have a Working with Children Check and where appropriate a Police Check for all the priests and employees who work in our organisation, as required legally or by the protocols of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, besides using other screening tools such as reference checking and online searches. | ✓ |
| We require our clergy and, from 2017, our staff to undertake annual training in child safety issues. | ✓ |
| We have a clear process for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse as required by law and as detailed in “May our children flourish - Code of Conduct for Caring for Children”. | ✓ |
| Through our parish schools and parishes we teach our children they have a right to feel safe, how to help keep themselves safe and how to respond if ever they feel unsafe. | ✓ |
| We are mindful that children come from different cultural and linguistic, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, backgrounds and all have different abilities and gifts. We strive continually to be sensitive to their different needs in how we relate to them. | ✓ |
| We constantly review our physical environment, our parishes’ practices and our employees’ and volunteers’ attitudes to the safety of our children. Our goal is to identify and strive continuously to reduce or remove all risks to our children. | ✓ |
| We seek to empower children to speak out if ever they feel unsafe. | ✓ |

