



# Student Protection Policy

At St. Benedict's we teach children in all year levels the Feeling Safe Strategy. This is mandated by Brisbane Catholic Education and is an integral part of our student protection processes. Teachers use the 'Be a hero when it comes to your safety.' posters to discuss the following key ideas regarding students' personal safety:

- We all have the right to feel safe all the time
- Nothing is so awful that we can't talk about it with someone
- Students develop their own personal network of adults they trust
- Students are encouraged to talk to these people if they feel unsafe at school or away from school.

The concept of persistence is stressed i.e. students are encouraged to keep talking until someone listens and something is done to help them feel safe again. All staff participates in student protection professional learning to assist them to understand their legal, policy and pastoral responsibilities and to respond appropriately to student protection concerns. All volunteers are also required to complete student protection training.

The students of St. Benedict's, and their safety and wellbeing, are our priority. St. Benedict's is committed to the protection of all our students from harm and abuse.

## Reporting of Concerns

At St. Benedict's, any concerns or reasonable suspicions we have about a student's safety and wellbeing or the behaviour of a staff member or volunteer which a student considers to be inappropriate, will continue to be managed in accordance with Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes.

## Complaints Procedure

Brisbane Catholic Education has published a Complaints Procedure for Non-Compliance with BCE Student Protection Processes. Parents or students may make a complaint via the Record of Complaint about Non-compliance with Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes. We take all complaints very seriously and will handle them in accordance with the Complaints Procedure for Non-Compliance with BCE Student Protection Processes. Should you require information or assistance regarding the procedures you may contact the school or the Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Team on 3033 7409.

## Family and Child Connect Services

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, has now established Family and Child Connect services to provide support to families. Please make contact with the school if you feel your family may benefit from contact with a Family and Child Connect Service or a local support service.

## Concerns or Further Information

Parents and students should talk to the Student Protection Contact, the Principal or the class teacher if there are any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of any student or concerns about the behaviour of a staff member or volunteer. We take all reports seriously and will handle them in accordance with our Student Protection Processes.

Please contact the Principal or Student Protection Contact if you have any questions or concerns about any matter or require further information about student protection. All of the above documentation and forms can be accessed on Brisbane Catholic Education's public website [www.bne.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au). Under the 'Students and Parents' tab select 'Student Protection' from the drop down menu.

**Our Student Protection Contacts are:**

- Patrick Davis (*Principal*)
- Tim Cronin (*Assistant Principal Administration*)
- Ellen Locke (*Assistant Principal Religious Education*)
- Pam Sweeney (*Guidance Counsellor*)