

Child Protection Policy Youth Version

LAVALLA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Introduction

Lavalla Catholic College has developed this 'Student Speak' Child Protection Policy as one way to tell us students, how we should be protected within the school environment and the support that we can get if we feel that either we or anyone we know, is being abused.



The School Environment - This means our school community such as:

- Our school buildings and yards,
- Online School Community such as email/intranet/SIMON;
- School based excursions, such as camps and immersion experiences.

This document will outline how the College deals with any allegations or suspicions of abuse. It also makes it clear that all children must be loved and protected.

This policy has been approved by the Leaders of the College and their bosses. It will be reviewed each year by students and some senior teachers who form the Child Protection Committee.

- This policy will be available on the website and spoken about in assemblies and Homeroom/LA.
- Child Protection Support and Action posters will be displayed in each classroom and at each canteen.
- Specialised Teachers – Child Protection Officers (CPOs) will be identified in these posters and with a special badge/lanyard. A hyperlink to each CPO email address will be present on digital information.

Objectives

What this document hopes to achieve

This policy provides the framework for:

- A College Community that puts the safety of everyone, especially the students, first;
- A culture that promotes 'Doing The Right Thing';
- The promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the College; and
- Compliance with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in Victoria.

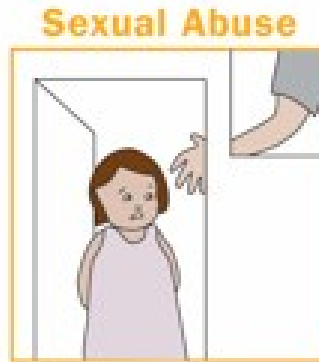




Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Child abuse includes any of these:

Sexual Offences – Words and actions that happen against you that are illegal or that make you uncomfortable (such as sexually revealing words, unwanted photos, touching).



Behaviours that Make You Feel Bad or Embarrassed

Grooming – When an adult becomes really friendly with you because they want to sexually assault you at a later time.



Are You or a Friend being Sexually Exploited?

Things to look out for...

- someone gives you gifts for no reason
- you hang around with older adults or you have an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- you are offered alcohol or drugs by adults
- you are given money or credit for your phone by someone
- you get lifts in cars with people
- you are pressured into having sex or doing other things like watching pornography
- an adult offers you somewhere to stay
- sometimes you run away from home

GROOMING BEHAVIORS

Before children are sexually abused, they are often groomed by abusers. Do you know the signs?

Special attention or gifts

Isolating the child from others

Filling needs and roles within the family



Treating the child as if he or she is older

Gradually crossing physical boundaries, even in public

Learn the signs, stop the abuse.

Physical Violence – When someone hurts your body, such as punches you or roughly grabs you.



Harm to Your Body that Makes You Feel Pain
Like beating you

Serious Emotional or Psychological Harm – When someone messes with someone else’s head and this causes a person to be really sad and afraid, like anxiety or cyberbullying.



Emotional Abuse



Harm to Your Heart or Mind
Like calling you bad names and being disrespectful to you

Serious Neglect – When someone acts with reverse favouritism and the young person isn’t cared for, either at or outside of school, e.g. Young person is regularly sent to school in unwashed clothing, does not have food for the day.

Neglect



Carers Not Taking Care of You
Like not giving you the food, clothes, shelter or love you need when it can be afforded

Child’s Exposure to Family Violence – When a young person sees a family member hurting another one, or they themselves are being hurt.



Lavalla Catholic is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse and shows they do this by making sure the College has a program that works that is designed to keep children safe.

At Lavalla Catholic College we have a zero tolerance towards child abuse – Lavalla Catholic College will ensure that as a school we will always work towards providing a safe community that does not allow anyone to face any abuse. We will make sure that we follow all the laws and provide a place where young people and all who attend this school, can be safe.





Child Safe Values & Principles

Lavalla Catholic College is committed to keeping ALL students safe in school from all people who we may meet when we are at school.

It is our right to be protected and listened to.

Child Protection Program

Lavalla Catholic College needs to have a Child Protection Policy, which needs to be checked each year to make sure it is working.

Everything we do that is connected with school life, is checked for risks by the school.

All adults involved with us students are made aware of the College expectations to keep us safe. They need to acknowledge that they know that child safety is the most important part of our College community and that they must do everything to ensure that this happens.

Responsibilities

Child protection is everyone's responsibility.

Leadership Team

Each member of the Leadership Team must make sure that the right resources are made available to allow the College's Child Protection Policy and the Child Protection Program to be effectively implemented within the College.

The Principal

The Principal, **Mr John Freeman**, is responsible, and will be accountable for ensuring a strong and sustainable child protection culture within the College.



The College's Child Protection Officers

A number of senior staff members will be the College's Child Protection Officers. Our Child Protection Officers receive additional specialised training to deal with child protection issues. They are the first point of contact for raising child protection concerns within the College. They are also responsible for championing child protection within the College and assisting in coordinating responses to child protection incidents.

Staff Members, Visitors, Volunteers, Contractors and Outside Educational Providers must be:

1. Aware of the main points of our Child Protection Policy and our Child Protection Program.
2. Must report any child abuse to either DHHS or the police and this is the law.
3. They must also report any abuse to one of the College's Child Protection Officers.

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**





Reporting Child Protection Concerns



Anybody who has concerns that a child may be subject to abuse or grooming are asked to contact the College's Senior Child Protection Officer:

Mr Doug Doherty

Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing and Operations

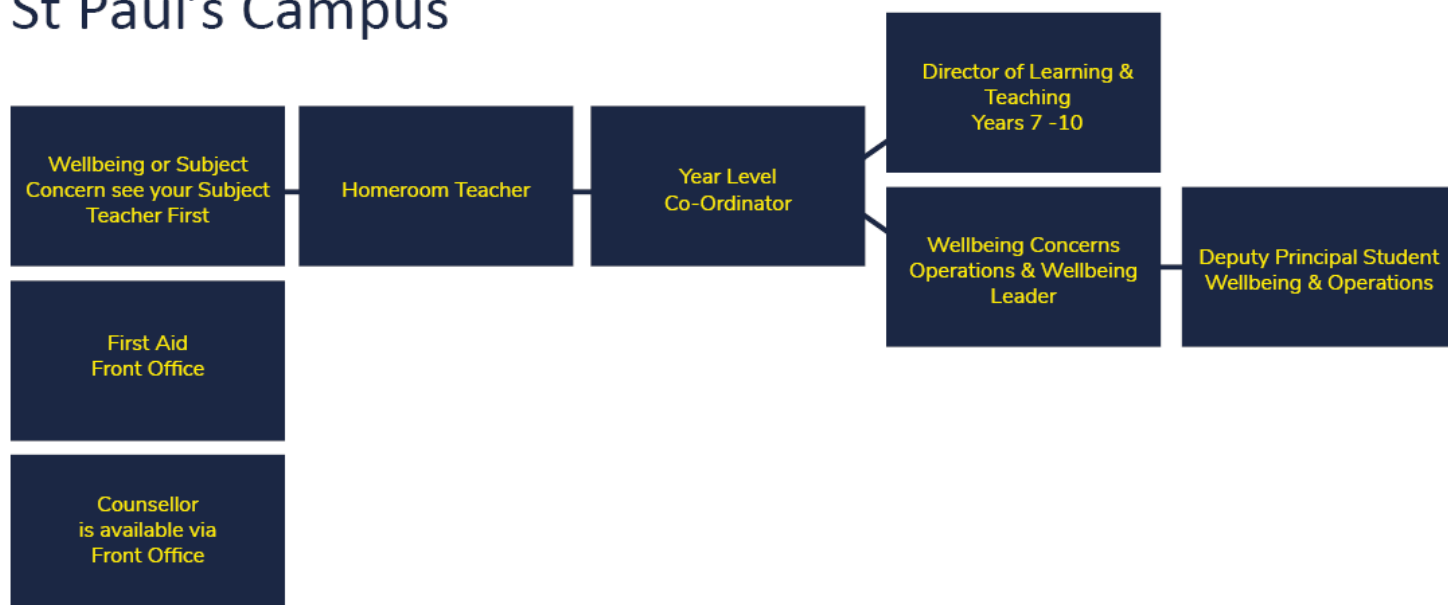
Kildare Campus Ph: 51748111

St Paul's Campus Ph: 51747355

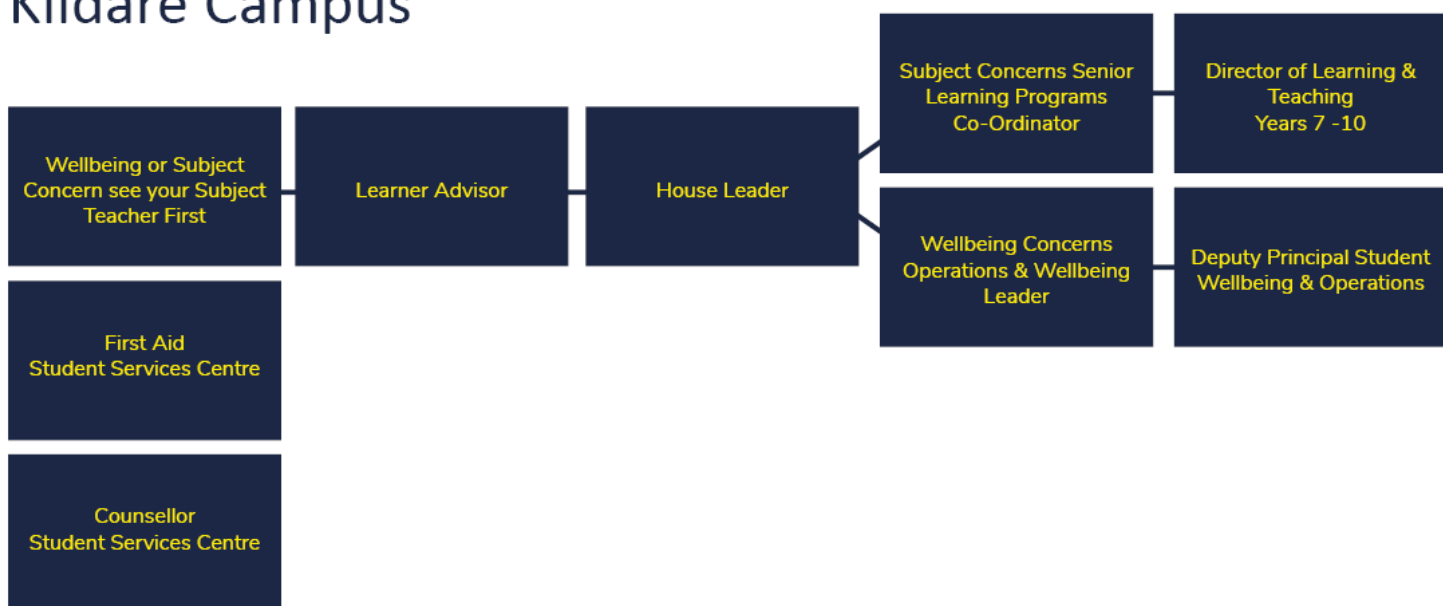
or emailing childprotection@lavalla.vic.edu.au

Where to go for Assistance

St Paul's Campus



Kildare Campus





Communications will be treated confidentially on a “need to know basis”. This does not mean that any adult at the school will keep any secrets.

In Victoria, all College staff who form a **reasonable belief** that a child is in need of protection must report their concerns to DHHS Child Protection or Victoria Police.

Any person at the College who forms a **reasonable belief** that a sexual offence has been committed against a child under 16, must disclose that information to the Police. For more information about this obligation refer to our **Obligation to Report a Sexual Offence Policy**.



Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.

Promotion of this Policy and Child Protection within our school:

- All teachers will be aware of this policy and be available to give advice and direction on how to get support.
- This policy will be available for students to read on the College Website, E-Learning Dashboard and SIMON, within a Child Protection Tab.
- Our Child Protection policy and support for young people, will be promoted through student lead assemblies, by members of the Child Protection Committee.
- There will be posters displayed in key areas of the College, including all classrooms; promoting awareness of unacceptable behaviours and where support can be found.
- Ways to get support will be printed in our planners and spoken about at times in Homeroom/LA.
- There will be regular updates on Child Protection written in the newsletter to encourage parents/guardians to speak about these issues with their children.

Policy & Program Review

Lavalla Catholic College is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program. The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards.

(This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.)

This Policy and Structures of Support were created by the Child Protection Committee - which includes students, teachers and staff.

