



CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Engaging Families in Child Safety

July 2022

Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd), operates and governs all Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools within the Diocese of Sandhurst (*excluding FCJ College Benalla, Marist College Bendigo, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo and St Joseph's College Echuca*).

1. Vision

The vision for Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd) is to provide, in partnership with our families, stimulating, enriching, liberating and nurturing learning environments in each of the Catholic school communities within the Diocese. At the heart of this vision is our commitment to the ongoing duty of care that we have for the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people.

We believe:

- that the values of the Gospel are central to who we are, what we do, and how we act
- that we have a vital role in the mission of the Catholic Church to imagine and seek new horizons while respecting our Tradition
- that a strong sense of community is dependent on the quality of our collegial relationship
- that each person's potential is fostered through the dedicated ministry of Catholic Education
- in leadership encompassing vision, innovation and empowerment.

2. 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.

CES Ltd holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a fundamental responsibility of all staff in Catholic Education.

This 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, 2022).

Each human being and their material and spiritual needs “is at the heart of Christ’s teaching”; therefore the goal of each Catholic school is the promotion of the human person (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, n.9).

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions CES Ltd schools will take 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.

4. Principles

The following principles underpin the 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.
- Each 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.

5. Policy

Each school implement the following strategies and actions to ensure all members of their school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing.

5.1 Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal and school leaders 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 CES Ltd 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.

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

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy also have a responsibility to support the school 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.

6. Related resources

- [CES Ltd Sandhurst Family Community Partnerships](#)
- [ARACY Parent and Family Engagement An Implementation Guide for School Communities](#)
- [ACER National School Improvement Tool](#)
- [Catholic School Parents Victoria](#)

7. 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.

Responsible Officer	Chief Student Pastoral Wellbeing Officer
Approving Body	CES Ltd Board
Approval Date	June 2022
Risk Rating	High
Date of Next Review	June 2023