

Update on Student Protection at St Mark's

Your children and their safety and wellbeing are our priority. St Mark's is committed to the protection of all our students from harm and abuse. There have been some recent changes to legislation in relation to reporting of student protection matters by schools.

Reporting of Concerns – At St Mark'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. All our staff recently undertook training on their reporting responsibilities. A link to the Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes can be found on our school website or they can be accessed on Brisbane Catholic Education's public website www.bne.catholic.edu.au Under the 'Students and Parents' tab select 'Student Protection' from the drop down menu and click on the relevant button.

Complaints Procedure - Brisbane Catholic Education has published a *Complaints Procedure for Non-Compliance with BCE Student Protection Processes*. A link to the Complaints Procedure can be found on our school website. Parents or students may make a complaint via the *Record of Complaint about Non-compliance with Brisbane Catholic Education Student Protection Processes* which can be accessed on Brisbane Catholic Education's public website www.bne.catholic.edu.au Under the 'Students and Parents' tab select 'Student Protection' from the drop down menu and click on the relevant button.

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 Contacts Mrs Kym Daley, Mrs Jo Patrick, Mrs Nikki Lysaght, the class teacher or the Principal 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 Jo Patrick – School Guidance Officer if you have any questions or concerns about any matter or require further information about student protection.