St. Therese School
Child Protection Policy

Philosophy and Rationale

We at St Therese Catholic School believe that:
Children have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times.
Children have the right to be protected from abuse and neglect.
Child abuse and neglect rarely stop without intervention and help.
Everyone has a moral obligation to report child abuse or a child/children at risk.
Early identification of abuse and neglect can ensure that relevant agencies and workers provide appropriate intervention to the family and the child/children.
Confidentiality of those reporting the abuse or neglect is imperative.

Purpose / Aims

Through the application of this policy, we at St Therese Catholic School aim to:
Ensure that all students are safe and that they feel safe at all times.
Meet the school’s obligations under the Child Protection Act (1997).

Guidelines

In support of this policy:
The Principal will:
Ensure that all staff members have completed ‘Mandated Notification Training’.
Ensure that all staff members are aware of their responsibility to report suspected abuse and neglect.
Ensure that all staff members have access to the relevant sections of the Child Protection Act (1997).
Ensure that all staff members have access to the guidelines. (Child Protection Policy 2000 – South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools).
Ensure that all staff members are aware of the policy.
Provide support for staff in undertaking their responsibility in this area.
All Staff members will:
Undertake ‘Mandated Notification Training’.
Have access to guidelines. (Child Protection Policy 2000 – South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools).
Report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect to F.A.Y.S (through the Central Intake Line).
Provide an educational environment that is supportive of the children’s emotional and physical safety.
Students will:
Be aware of the school’s role in supporting them in their emotional and physical safety.
Parents/Caregivers will:
Have access to guidelines. (Child Protection Policy 2000 – South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools).
Be given a copy of this policy

Implementation

- All staff members will be given a copy of this policy.
- All Parents/Caregivers or volunteers who have direct supervision of children will be made aware of this policy.
- All Parents/Caregivers and community members will be informed of this policy via the newsletter.
- The names of all relevant Government Agencies will be checked and updated on the review date of this policy.

Resources

- Child Protection in South Australia – A new approach (Family and Community Services).
- Proforma for reporting
- Central Intake Line – Phone 131478

Review Date

February 2012