



# CHILD SAFETY POLICY

## Galen Catholic College

### Engaging Families in Child Safety

July 2022

Galen Catholic College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Bishop of Sandhurst and is owned, operated and governed by Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd).

## 1. 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.

Galen Catholic College holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as our school's fundamental responsibility. Our 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.

Galen Catholic College is a nurturing community, where Faith and Integrity are at the core of our aspirations. Galen Catholic College strives to:

- Create a faith-centred and hope-filled community inspired by the teachings of Jesus;
- Provide quality education that challenges, supports and empowers students to explore and reach for their full potential;
- Foster an inclusive and safe environment;
- Build authentic partnerships between school, parents and carers and the wider community.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions Galen Catholic College 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.

### 3. Principles

At Galen Catholic College, 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
- Our 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.

### 4. Policy

Galen Catholic College school is committed to ensuring 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 at Galen Catholic College.

#### 4.1 Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal and school leaders at Galen Catholic College 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 Galen Catholic College 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 eg. parent newsletters/email communication, student assemblies, staff meetings. Child Safety is a standing staff meeting agenda item at the commencement of each school year and aspects of our child safe policies are discussed and understood where relevant. Each policy is unpacked and reviewed with the opportunity for staff to ask questions to ensure they understand their responsibilities with child safe. Read and Understood activity register is maintained.

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

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at Galen Catholic College 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.
- Child Safety is a standing staff meeting agenda item annually and aspects of our child safe policies are discussed and understood. Relevant policies are unpacked and reviewed with the opportunity for Advisory Council members to ask questions to ensure they understand their responsibilities with child safe. Read and Understood activity register is maintained.

## 5. 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](#)

## 6. 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.

Next Review	July 2024
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