



St Mark's College

Child Protection Policy

If you need help or support, call:

- **The Chair, (Position currently vacant)**
- **The Master, Rose Alwyn** 0488 265 892
- **The Dean, Raphaela Oest** 0412 432 658
- **The Director of Learning, Katherine Radoslovich** 0417 105 498

About The Policy

This Policy is available on the St Mark's College [student portal](#) and in the student Handbook.

This is a stand-alone Policy. As far as possible, it is consistent with the College's health, safety and welfare management system and with student and staff codes of conduct.

Statement of Commitment

The College is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people accessing the services offered by the College, in accordance with the Act, which requires appropriate policies and procedures are in place to ensure that child-safe environments are established and maintained.

Who is covered by this Policy

The policy applies to all College staff, students, title holders, contractors and volunteers, and relates specifically to their contact with children.

Definitions

Abuse and neglect Abuse or neglect, in relation to a child, means (a) sexual abuse of the child; or (b) physical or emotional abuse of the child, or neglect of the child, to the extent that: (i) the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, physical or psychological injury detrimental to the child's wellbeing; or (ii) the child's physical or psychological development is in jeopardy

Act	The Children’s Protection Act 1993 (SA)
CARL	Child Abuse Report Line (13 14 78)
Chair	The Chair of the College Council and Board
Child/Children	Persons(s) aged under 18 years of age
Child safe environment	A respectful and protective environment where children are safe from harm
College	St Mark’s College Inc of 46 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide SA
Mandated Notifier	An individual who under the Act is classified as a Mandated Notifier
Resident	A resident of the College
Staff	Individuals who are employed by the College and are also not student residents
Student	A student resident of the College

The Policy

The College, as an adult residential environment, is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people it may come in contact with. The College has a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and neglect.

The College encourages and supports the prompt reporting of allegations of child abuse, neglect and exploitation. The College aims to manage all allegations of child abuse and neglect received by the College sensitively and expeditiously, and in accordance with relevant legislation, principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. The College is committed to supporting mandated notifiers under the Act to meet their legal obligation to notify of any reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

All College residents and staff are expected to ensure that any children they may interact with are safe and protected. The College believes that any resident or staff member who has any reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect has a moral responsibility to report this to the relevant authority.

In accordance with the College’s Alcohol Policy, no child is permitted to consume alcohol on College grounds or at College events, and no resident, staff member or guest is permitted to supply alcohol to any child on College grounds or at College events.

Roles and Responsibilities

All students, residents and staff have a moral responsibility to ensure that the College is a safe environment for any child accessing the College’s services.

Mandated notifiers are responsible for understanding and enacting their duties under the Act.

The Chair, supported by the Master, is responsible for ensuring the College's compliance with this Policy and relevant legislation.

Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect

Any student, resident or staff member suspects on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected should urgently report the matter to the Chair or the Master. They are also strongly encouraged to submit a notification to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) either via phone (13 14 78) or via the CARL online reporting system.

A mandated notifier must make a report to the Department of Child Protection through the CARL if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected. A mandated notifier does not need to be able to prove that abuse or neglect has actually occurred. All matters encountered during the course of work for the College must also be reported to the Master or the Chair immediately.

The College acknowledges that making a report does not exhaust a mandated notifier's or the College's duty of care to a child or their family. On report of suspected child abuse or neglect, the Master and the Chair will review the situation on a case by case basis to determine the actions needed to ensure the immediate and ongoing safety and well-being of the child. This will include liaison with the child and the parents or guardian of the child. It will also include engagement with the Department of Child Protection and other service providers as necessary.

The College has a zero tolerance of child abuse and neglect. Any staff member who is suspected on reasonable grounds to have committed child abuse or neglect will have their employment immediately suspended until the matter can be resolved. Failure to resolve the matter will result in termination of employment at the College. Any resident who is suspected on reasonable grounds to have committed child abuse or neglect will be subject to disciplinary proceedings, up to and including expulsion from the College, in line with the College's *Behaviour Management Policy*.

Procedural Fairness

The College will respect the rights of respondents throughout any investigation and disciplinary processes. We acknowledge that respondents are entitled to the presumption of innocence. For the purposes of its own investigation and disciplinary processes, the College acts according to the civil standard of proof, i.e. proof on the balance of probabilities.

Seeking Support – within the College

The following people at the College are available to provide assistance:

- The Chair
- The Master
- The Dean
- The Director of Learning

Seeking Support – other sources

Department of Child Protection: Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse/report-child-abuse-or-neglect>

Department of Child Protection: online CARL notification system

<https://my.families.sa.gov.au/IDMProv/landing.html>

Department of Child Protection: indicators of abuse or neglect

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse/indicators-abuse-or-neglect>

Education and training

The College recognises its obligation to take all reasonable measures to ensure that up to date and relevant information is made available to staff and residents about their responsibilities in line with this Policy and the Act.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis in January of each year, prior to publication in the student Handbook and on the student portal, to ensure that it is compliant with best practice management and the College's legal obligations.

Policy created: June 2018

Policy updated: June 2018

Policy authorised by: The Master

Date to be reviewed: June 2019