



# ST MARY'S COLLEGE

EST. 1869

## Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement

St Mary's College is actively committed to fostering communities of safeguarding that recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people.

The College has zero tolerance for children and young people coming to harm of any kind.

In the spirit of our Catholic Dominican ethos, we are a school committed to welcome and inclusivity. As a community we recognise the particular needs of vulnerable children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, LGBTQIA+ students, young people in care and students whose lives have been impacted by poverty, trauma or illness.

The College encourages open communication whereby children and young people, families, staff and the broader College community are informed of relevant issues and participate in decisions about the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It is particularly important to the College to empower children and young people to have a say and be listened to, and that children and young people are informed of their right to feel safe and know who to talk with if they have concerns or feel unsafe.

The College actively seeks to become and remain informed of the causes and signs of harm or risk of harm to children and young people, and in turn develop strategies to prevent, safeguard against, or respond effectively to such signs and risks.

Every person within the College who comes into contact, or works, with children and young people seeks to uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people and commits to establishing safe and supportive relationships.

The College has documented policies and procedures to prevent risks to children and young people and build a strong culture of safeguarding. All staff, visitors, religious, and volunteers are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the culture of care and protection of all children and young people.

The College proactively plans, organises and reviews all activities with children and young people, with potential risks considered, reduced, mitigated and/or eliminated where possible. The College encourages members of the community to communicate any feedback as it always strives for continuous improvement.

All concerns raised are treated seriously and are responded to sensitively, respectfully, thoroughly and in a timely manner, including by ensuring that any response is compliant with the College's mandatory reporting and other legal responsibilities.

The College implements staff training and regularly reviews its safeguarding policies and practices to ensure a culture and practice of putting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people as its paramount consideration.

The College listens to the voices of children and young people as we constantly strive to remain vigilant and make improvements.

For more information or to raise a concern, please contact:

**Heidi Senior**  
Principal  
Heidi.Senior@stmarys.sa.edu.au  
8216 5700

**Tracey Thursby**  
Assistant Principal and Child Safeguarding Coordinator  
Tracey.Thursby@stmarys.sa.edu.au  
8216 5700