Statement on Online Conduct and Online Safety

Consistent with the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and practices, and the Child Safety Code of Conduct 2022 (Min-Order-1359)

If you have a belief or suspicion that a child is being, or has been, subjected to any form of abuse you must contact the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (Child Protection).

Where you need guidance on making a report or have questions regarding child safety and wellbeing, contact one of the College's Child Protection Officers.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 000.

St Paul's College takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures, and practices meet all Child Safety Standards as specified in the new Victorian Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order No. 1359 (MO 1359), Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the risk of child abuse in schools and school boarding premises. MO 1359 provided the framework for how St Paul's College has actioned the 11 new Victorian Child Safe Standards, legislated on 1st July 2022

Our child safe policies, procedures, strategies, and practices are inclusive of the needs of all students, particularly our students with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and other students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, children who are vulnerable, students in out of home care and LGBTIQA+ students.

St Paul's College provides a contemporary, safe and nurturing school environment with state-of-the-art facilities where children and young people with a range of disabilities have a sense of belonging and every opportunity to achieve optimal learning outcomes

Scope Statement

The purpose of this Scope Statement is to ensure that those who might be affected by this policy are identified, considered, and consulted.

This St Paul's College Child Safe policy applies to:

Category	03 Clients	*Approved By*	Sonya Smart, Chief Executive Officer
Set	St Paul's College	*Approved Date*	01/07/23
Owner	Office of the CEO	*Review Date*	30/06/23

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• *All people who conduct work for the College in a paid or unpaid capacity. This includes board members, executive leadership, staff, volunteers, trainees, contractors and consultants*

• *Taking into account of other professional or occupational codes of conduct that regulate particular school staff*

• *Taking into account the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable.*

• *All activities undertaken at the College which involve, result in or relate to contact with children or young people including excursions, camps and online learning*

• *Partner organisations will be made aware of this policy and the school's underlying philosophy towards the care of children.*

Statement on Online Conduct and Online Safety

St Paul's College is required to protect children when a risk is identified. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. We have risk management strategies in place to identify, assess, and take steps to minimise child abuse risks which include risks posed by online environments.

St Paul's College takes all allegations of child abuse seriously and has practices in place to investigate thoroughly and quickly, in accordance with our procedures for staff and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers are trained to deal with allegations in an online environment in the College setting, appropriately and reporting procedures are documented in operational manuals.

Child Safety Statement across all physical and online environments (MO 1359) 2022

St Paul's College is committed to ensuring that the 'school environment' physical, online and virtual locations reflects the full implementation of the new 11 Victorian Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order 1359.

Our College meets all aspects of child safety in all physical and online environments across our Child Safeguarding policies procedures, programs, resources and initiatives. This includes the campus of the College in Balwyn, online or virtual school environments made available or authorised by the school governing authority for use by a child or student (including email, intranet systems, software applications, collaboration tools, and online services) and other locations provided by the school or through a third-party provider for a child or student to use including, but not limited to, locations used for delivery of education and training such as registered training organisations (TAFE), College excursions and other school settings, consistent with the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and practices, and the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

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Factors contributing to reasonable belief may include if:

• *a child states that they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)*

• *behaviour is consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed*

• *someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it*

• *an adult observes suspicious behaviour.*

Concerns and complaints about child safety in an online environment in the home or wider community settings should be reported to DFFH, including notifying the St Paul's College Principal.

Children and young people in care services are required to be provided with information about how to make a complaint. Specific resources have been developed to support this including the child friendly compliments and complaints webpage on the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)

https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/child-protection-contacts

This service has a child friendly complaints and feedback form.

Complaints are registered in the Department's Feedback Management System.

TH May (MO 1395) 2022 - Review July 2023

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