



## MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*"Because I have seen the Lord"*

# Child Protection Policy

## Rationale

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The dignity of the human person is a central truth of the Gospel message of Jesus. In respecting the dignity of all human persons, Catholic school communities are called to ensure the welfare and safety of all its members. The protection of the students entrusted into our care, then, is a very serious responsibility.

At Magdalene Catholic High School we uphold the core Catholic teaching of the Dignity of the Human Person. We believe that the young people in our school community should feel safe and secure in the knowledge that they will be supported and nurtured in a safe and caring environment. All school personnel have responsibilities and duties placed upon them by the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. This Act requires that staff must report to Community Services the name of any child whom one may have reasonable grounds to suspect is at imminent risk of serious harm.

## Guidelines

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1. A child or young person at significant risk of harm can arise as a result of sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological harm (emotional abuse), neglect of basic physical needs, domestic violence, homelessness.
2. Mandatory reporting of Significant Risk of Harm applies to any child (ie under 16 years) or class of children.
3. Should a staff member suspect that a child is at Significant Risk of Harm, they must report them to the Principal or Assistant Principal.
4. Should the Principal decide that these are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at Significant Risk of Harm then the Principal must promptly notify DCS and inform the CEO. This responsibility can be delegated to the Assistant Principal or Pastoral Care Coordinator.
5. All school personnel must attend appropriate child protection training provided by Wollongong CEO and attend annual CP Policy Briefings provided by the school.
6. The school will endeavour to work in partnership with the CEO, CatholicCare and DCS in implementing this policy.

## Basis of Discretion

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The Principal must be consulted on all CP Risk of Harm reports.

## Evaluation

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This Policy will be reviewed in 2015.