ENGAGING FAMILIES IN CHILD SAFETY POLICY

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.

At Salesian College Chadstone we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our college. 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 .
- the spirituality and educational principles of our Salesian founder, St John Bosco and our mission of welcoming all boys and their families and where all in the community are treated as valued partners in laying the foundation for lifelong learning.
- we are challenged to re-enliven St John Bosco's educational vision in every generation according to the requirements of the contemporary situation and the needs of young people, to whom he once said: "I have only one wish: that you be happy in this world and the next".
- Our college values are central to our responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of each student where we strive to create:
    - A home that welcomes
    - A parish that evangelises
    - A school that prepares for life
    - A playground where friends meet and enjoy themselves

  In particular, by striving to create a home that welcomes we are committed to the care and support of all young people, especially the poor and marginalised. In addition we are dedicated to cultivating relationships which are based upon genuine affection, openness and acceptance of others.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions that we have in place at the College 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.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy. It should be read in conjunction with related school policies and procedures, including:

1. Child Safety Policy

2. Child Safety Code of Conduct

VERSION CONTROL

Prepared by	Assistant Principal, Students and Engagement
Version	2.0
Approved by	The Leadership Team
Approval date	November 2025
Next review	November 2026

ISSUE HISTORY

Date Modified	Modified by	Version	Details
1 October 2025	Risk and Compliance Mgr	2.0	Cyclical Review.

PRINCIPLES

At Salesian College Chadstone, the following principles underpin our 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.

POLICY

The College is committed to ensuring that all members of our school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at Salesian College.

We implement the following strategies and actions to ensure that we are able to meet this commitment.

Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal, the school governing authority and College leaders 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 the College's 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

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

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at the College also have a responsibility to support the Board 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

EXTERNAL REFERENCES

Related Resources – Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

eXcel: Wellbeing for learning in Catholic school communities

Horizons of Hope: Vision and Context

Horizons of Hope: Families as Partners

Horizons of Hope: Wellbeing

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.

RELATED POLICES

- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Policy