

CHILD SAFE POLICY

Purpose

To demonstrate the strong commitment of the Damascus College community to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies to keep everyone safe from harm, including all forms of abuse.

Scope

The scope of this policy covers all members of the Damascus College community.

Definitions

A member of the **Damascus College community** is any person who is associated with Damascus College.

Child Safety encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse.

Child Abuse is defined as:

- any act committed against a child involving a sexual offence or a grooming offence; and/or
- the infliction on a child of physical violence, serious emotional or psychological harm; and/or
- the serious neglect of a child.

Child means:

- a child/young person enrolled at the school; and
- a child/young person visiting the school.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Damascus College that:

- all students enrolled and any child visiting, has the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any impediments for their safety;
- comprehensive procedures will be promoted and maintained in order to direct the College in its ability to respond to issues of child safety within the College community; and
- the College will provide pastoral support towards all persons affected by any incident of child abuse.

Consequences

The consequences of such a policy are:

- a Child Protection Officer is appointed by the College Principal with responsibilities for enacting the Child Safe Policy;
- comprehensive procedures will be developed and communicated to all community members;



- induction processes will ensure staff and volunteers are familiar with the Child Safe Policy and procedures;
- we encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to things that are important to them; and
- procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

Responsibilities

The Principal and the Leadership Team have overall authority for the implementation of this policy.

Legislative Context

Ministerial Order 870. Child Safe Standards

Crimes Act

Mandatory Reporting

Children & Young Persons Act

Associated Documents

Damascus College Vision and Mission Statement

Code of Conduct

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed every three years and we undertake to seek feedback from students, parents, carers, staff and volunteers.