

Useful contacts

Queensland Police Service

Police - Emergency (free call) 24 hours 000

Domestic and Family Violence Support Services

DV Connect Women's 24 hours Help Line 1800 811 811

DV Connect Men's Help Line (9am-12pm) 1800 600 636

Women's Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1800 010 120

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

South West Regional Intake Service 1300 683 390

Child Safety After Hours Service 1800 177 135

Legal Services

Legal Aid Queensland 1300 651 188

Support Services

Family and Child Connect 13 32 64

CatholicCare Family and Relationship Counselling 1300 477 433

Parentline 1300 301 300

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

Lifeline Crisis Counselling Line (24 hours) 13 11 14

Additional child protection information is available from the following websites.

- www.families.qld.gov.au
- www.dvrc.org.au
- www.police.qld.gov.au
- www.napcan.org.au
- www.parentline.com.au
- www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/protectiveBehaviours
- www.kidshelp.com.au

What do I do if I have a concern of harm or abuse?

As a parent or legal guardian, you are able to report any concerns of harm or abuse directly to the police, and to child safety services if the concern is that there may not be a parent able and willing to protect the child.

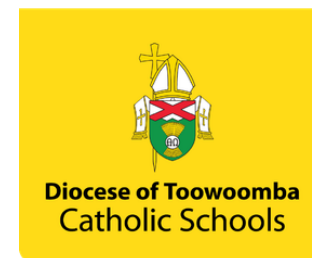
If you have any questions about school student protection processes or concerns around a situation at a school, please contact the principal in the first instance.

What do I do if I have a complaint?

Toowoomba Catholic Schools is committed to maintaining high standards regarding the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff members. In the event that a complaint arises where the Student Protection Processes and Guidelines has not been followed, the Resolution of complaints procedure - students, parents and community members and an online form is accessible via the Toowoomba Catholic Schools website.

Contact details for the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office are below.

ADDRESS PO Box 813, Toowoomba Qld 4350
PHONE 07 4637 1400
EMAIL enquiries@twb.catholic.edu.au
WEB www.twb.catholic.edu.au
ABN 88 932 244 646



Working together

Student protection information for parents and legal guardians



STUDENT PROTECTION

Our commitment

One of the most important concerns of any community should be the health, safety and wellbeing of its children and young people. Children and young people should grow up free from abuse, violence and exploitation. They should be able to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially in conditions of freedom and dignity.

The Catholic Church affirms

“Catholic Schools share in the Christian vision of the human person directed towards the dignity and the flourishing of each person.”

‘Education Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion, Instrumentum Laboris, Vatican City. (Congregation for Catholic Education, 2014)

The Catholic Church affirms that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and possesses an inherent dignity that can never be diminished. Catholic schools share in a Christian vision of the human person directed towards the dignity and flourishing of each person and are therefore committed to creating environments where every student is respected, protected from harm, and enabled to thrive.

The Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Student Protection Processes and Guidelines, along with the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Safeguarding Plan highlight our commitment to the protection of children and young people while upholding their right to a safe and secure environment.

Our obligations

Our Catholic schools have a number of specific child protection reporting responsibilities detailed in our Student Protection Processes and Guidelines.

Teachers are mandated to submit a report to Child Safety Services where they have a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse, and may not have a parent willing and able to protect the child from the harm.

Student protection is everybody's responsibility.

In order to meet the safety needs of all of our students, we have broadened this reporting requirement to apply to all of our school staff members, and to all forms of abuse.

School staff members are mandated to report a reasonable suspicion that a student under 18 has been, or is likely to be, sexually abused by another person. These reports are made to the principal or to the Director of the Governing Body, who must immediately forward the report to Police.

School staff members are required to report a reasonable suspicion or belief that a staff member, volunteer or worker has behaved inappropriately or demonstrated Reportable Conduct towards a student. These reports are made through the principal to the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and submitted to regulatory authorities where required.

In addition, there are specific processes for schools to respond to other forms of harm to a student, including responding to self-harm or harm between students.

What is harm to a student?

Harm, to a child, is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused.

Harm can be caused by physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect; or sexual abuse or exploitation.

Harm can be caused by a single act, omission or circumstance; or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

The Blue Card system

The Queensland Blue Card System is an important prevention and monitoring system for people working with children and young people. It is a legal requirement under the Working with Children Check Act 2000 that all people working in child-related employment are assessed for their eligibility to work with children based on their police history and disciplinary information.

Blue Card screening

All staff and volunteers working with children in Toowoomba Catholic Schools are required to hold a current valid Blue Card, unless an exemption applies.

Teachers undergo criminal history checks through their teacher registration with the Queensland College of Teachers. Both Blue Card and teacher registration information is verified as part of employment and student protection procedures for all staff and volunteers in Toowoomba Catholic Schools.

Blue Card monitoring

Police information on all Blue Card holders and teachers is monitored. If the information changes, immediate steps can be taken to protect children from harm. This can include suspension or dismissal of staff and volunteers.

School Student Protection contacts

All of our schools have a minimum of two School Student Protection Contacts. These are nominated staff members to whom students can raise concerns of abuse, harm or inappropriate behaviour. School Student Protection Contacts receive additional training and are clearly identified at each school.

All school staff receive regular training and information to enable them to respond to student protection concerns.

Keeping our students safe

Our schools work in a number of ways to maintain student safety, including

- implementing the Student Protection Processes and Guidelines reporting requirements
- maintaining the knowledge of our staff members and volunteers around their student protection responsibilities
- promoting clear standards of behaviour through our Code of Conduct
- following the requirements of the Queensland Blue Card system
- meeting mandatory requirements under the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, including implementing the 10 Child Safe Standards, the Universal Principle and the Reportable Conduct Scheme
- education sessions for students around protective behaviours
- parent information nights and information through the school newsletters.