

- Activities with special risks are specifically planned for and processes are adopted to minimise risk of injury or harm. This includes excursions, camps, events and other activities.

Blue Card compliance

- Employee and volunteer Blue Cards are monitored on an ongoing basis and staff screening procedures are followed at all times. A Blue Card Register is maintained at both schools and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.
- Strategies for communication of the Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy and support for all stakeholders including children and young people.
- A number of strategies are adopted to assist communication and support including prominent display of student protection posters in schools, public availability of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office policy and procedures, education of students through the Daniel Morcombe curriculum, ongoing professional development of staff and the Working Together brochure which explains our student protection requirements to parents and caregivers.
- Toowoomba Catholic Schools has adopted two additional requirements under this strategy.

Visibility Audit Processes

- All Toowoomba Catholic Schools must ensure clear visibility into areas utilised by students. Audits are conducted each semester to ensure that visibility is maintained.

Weapons in Schools

- Bringing any weapon, including knives, to school is prohibited. There are specific Weapons Guidelines to follow in the event a weapon is brought to school.
- The Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy is reviewed annually, and further detail around each of the requirements under the strategy can be found by accessing our website: www.twb.catholic.edu.au, or by speaking with the Administration staff in schools.

We all have a role in protecting students, and the Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy is one part of our broader duty of care. Remember:

**Student protection
is everyone's responsibility.**

Aug 2018



**Diocese of Toowoomba
Catholic Schools**

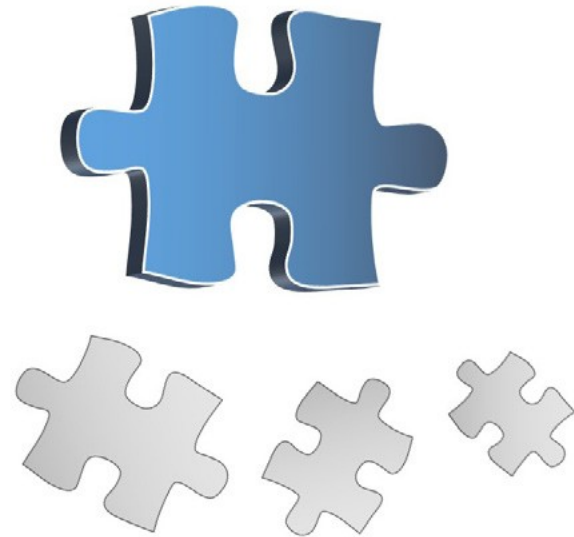
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Student Protection

**THE 'BLUE CARD' SYSTEM
AND CHILD AND YOUTH RISK
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**



Begin your discovery at www.twb.catholic.edu.au

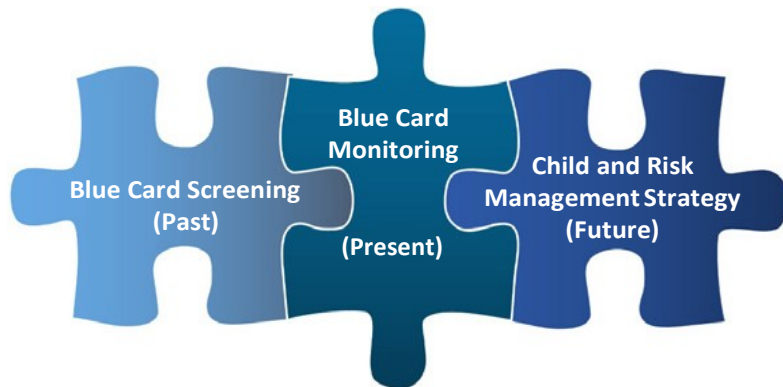


Student Protection

THE 'BLUE CARD' SYSTEM AND THE CHILD AND YOUTH RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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 (Risk Management and Screening) 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.

It is important to understand that initial Blue Card screening is the first component of a three-part system that considers past, present and future risk.



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

The police information of 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.

Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy

Organisations who provide child-related services cannot solely rely on Blue Cards to keep children safe.

Safe environments don't just happen – they require ongoing planning, commitment and maintenance. Schools and other organisations providing services to children need to develop and implement child and youth risk management strategies that satisfy eight requirements which assist in identifying and minimising the risk of harm to children. Toowoomba Catholic Schools takes this responsibility seriously as our most important priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students.

The requirements under the Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy are:

- A statement of commitment to the principles of safe and supportive environments
- Our statement of commitment is contained within our Student Protection policy, which governs the operation of our student protection processes.

A Code of Conduct

- The Code of Conduct applies to all students and employees within Toowoomba Catholic Schools. Volunteers and visiting service providers are also subject to codes of conduct, which specify standards of behaviour expected for interacting with students and the broader school community.

Recruitment, selection, training and management strategies that encourage best practice and enhance the safety and wellbeing of students.

- Staff employed in Toowoomba Catholic schools undergo recruitment processes which include suitability declarations, referee checks, screening processes, induction and training programs. Volunteers and other service providers such as music teachers are also subject to screening and induction processes.

Policies and procedures for handling disclosures or suspicions of harm, including reporting guidelines

- Staff members have mandatory obligations to report suspicions of abuse and harm to relevant authorities and all staff and volunteers receive training and advice about reporting requirements and procedures. Student Protection Officers provide advice and assistance with reporting concerns and providing appropriate support to students, families and staff.

Procedures for managing breaches of the risk management strategy

- Toowoomba Catholic Schools has specific procedures that are implemented where there is a breach of any aspect of this strategy. The procedures are implemented carefully and thoroughly, with focus on the safety and wellbeing of all involved.
- A planning process for high risk activities and special events