

# Student Safeguarding Policy

## Youth Version

LAVALLA  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



### Introduction

Lavalla Catholic College has developed this 'Student Speak' Student Safeguarding Policy as one way to tell us students, how we should be protected within the school environment and the support that we can get if we feel that either we, or anyone we know, is being abused.



**The School Environment** - This means our school community such as:

- Our school buildings and yards, bus stops
- Online School Community such as email/intranet/SIMON;
- School based excursions, such as camps and immersion experiences.

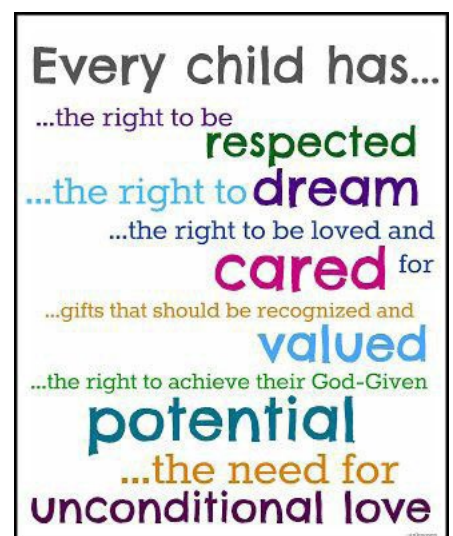
This policy will outline how the College deals with any allegations or suspicions of abuse. It also makes it clear that all children must be loved and protected.

This policy has been approved by the Leaders of the College and their bosses. It will be reviewed each year by students and some senior teachers who form the Student Safeguarding Committee.

- This policy will be available on the website and spoken about in assemblies and Homeroom.
- Student Safeguarding Support and Action posters will be displayed in each classroom and at each canteen.
- Specialised Teachers and Staff – Child Safeguarding Officers (CSOs) will be identified in these posters. A hyperlink to each CSO email address will be present on digital information.

**What this policy hopes to achieve:**

- A College Community that puts the safety of everyone, especially the students, first;
- A culture that promotes 'Doing The Right Thing';
- The promotion and open discussion of child safeguarding issues within the College; and
- Compliance with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child safeguarding in Victoria.





## Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Child abuse includes any of these:

**Sexual Offences** – Words and actions that happen against you that are illegal or that make you uncomfortable (such as sexually revealing words, unwanted photos, touching).



**Behaviours that Make You Feel Bad or Embarrassed**

**Grooming** – When an adult becomes really friendly with you or your family because they want to sexually assault you at a later time.



### Are You or a Friend being Sexually Exploited?

**Things to look out for...**

- someone gives you gifts for no reason
- you hang around with older adults or you have an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- you are offered alcohol or drugs by adults
- you are given money or credit for your phone by someone
- you get lifts in cars with people
- you are pressured into having sex or doing other things like watching pornography
- an adult offers you somewhere to stay
- sometimes you run away from home

### GROOMING BEHAVIORS

Before children are sexually abused, they are often groomed by abusers. Do you know the signs?

- Special attention or gifts
- Isolating the child from others
- Filling needs and roles within the family



- Treating the child as if he or she is older
- Gradually crossing physical boundaries, even in public

**Learn the signs, stop the abuse.**

**Physical Violence** – When someone hurts your body, such as punches you or roughly grabs you.



**Harm to Your Body that Makes You Feel Pain**

Like beating you

**Serious Emotional or Psychological Harm** – When someone messes with someone else’s head and this causes a person to be really sad and afraid, like anxiety or cyberbullying.



### Emotional Abuse



#### Harm to Your Heart or Mind

Like calling you bad names and being disrespectful to you

**Serious Neglect** – When a young person isn’t cared for, either at or outside of school e.g. a young person is regularly sent to school in unwashed clothing or does not have food for the day.

### Neglect



#### Carers Not Taking Care of You

Like not giving you the food, clothes, shelter or love you need when it can be afforded

**Child’s Exposure to Family Violence** – When a young person sees a family member hurting another one, or they themselves are being hurt.



Lavalla Catholic is committed to the safeguarding of all students from all forms of child abuse and shows they do this by making sure the College has a program that works that is designed to keep students safe.

At Lavalla Catholic College we have a zero tolerance towards child abuse – Lavalla Catholic College will ensure that as a school we will always work towards providing a safe community that does not allow anyone to face any abuse. We will make sure that we follow all the laws and provide a place where young people and all who attend this school, can be safe.



## Child Safe Values & Principles

Lavalla Catholic College is committed to keeping ALL students safe in school from all people who we may meet when we are at school.

It is our right to be protected and listened to.

## Child Safeguarding Program

Lavalla Catholic College needs to have a Child Safeguarding Policy, which needs to be checked each year to make sure it is working.

Everything we do that is connected with school life, is checked for risks by the school.

All adults involved with us students are made aware of the College expectations to keep us safe. They need to acknowledge that they know that child safety is the most important part of our College community and that they must do everything to ensure that this happens.

## Responsibilities

***Student safety and wellbeing is everyone's responsibility.***

Here at Lavalla Catholic College it shouldn't matter if a student is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or any culture, race, gender, religious belief, non-religious belief, sexual orientation or have a disability. We as students have to work with the College, our families and each other to ensure that all of us are safe, feel included and are welcome.

## Leadership Team

Each member of the Leadership Team must make sure that the right resources are made available to allow the College's Child Safeguarding Policy and the Child Safeguarding Program to be effectively implemented within the College.

## The Principal



The Principal, **Mr Ryan Greer**, is responsible for, and will be accountable for, ensuring a strong and sustainable child safeguarding culture within the College.

## The College's Child Safeguarding Officers

A number of senior staff members will be the College's Child Safeguarding Officers. Our Child Safeguarding Officers receive additional specialised training to deal with child safeguarding issues. They are responsible for championing child safeguarding within the College and assisting in coordinating responses to child safeguarding incidents.

## Staff Members, Visitors, Volunteers, Contractors and Outside Educational Providers must:

1. Be aware of the main points of our Child Safeguarding Policy and our Child Safeguarding Program.
2. Report any child abuse to either DFFH or the police and this is the law.
3. Report any abuse to one of the College's Child Safeguarding Officers.



**Keeping  
children safe  
is everyone's  
responsibility**



## Where to Report Child Safeguarding Concerns

Any student who has a child safeguarding concern in relation to themselves or another student can raise their concerns with any of the following:

Homeroom Teacher	Wellbeing Leader / Head of House	Wellbeing Team Leader	Senior Child Safeguarding Officer / Child Safeguarding Officer
Head of Campus	Student Safeguarding Suggestion Box	Leadership Team Member	Principal

## What Will Happen to Your Concern?

Staff will provide support and protect the safety of all students involved.

Being heard and not being judged is a priority.

Actions to be taken once a concern is received may include:

- Discussion with the student (resolve/ problem solve, listening)
- Taking statements from the student, witnesses and/or the alleged person causing harm
- Discussions with Homeroom Teachers / Wellbeing Leaders to determine options for support
- Arranging a discussion with a counsellor
- Discussion with parents / carers to provide support and advice to assist to support the student
- Determining consequences for a student causing harm / hurt
- Offering restorative practices (for example, mediation, counselling, problem solving at school)
- Arranging the involvement of outside services to support the student and/or family.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a “need to know basis”. This does not mean that any adult at the school will keep any secrets.

In Victoria, all College staff who form a *belief on reasonable grounds* that a child is in need of protection must report their concerns to Child Protection or Victoria Police.



**Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.**

## Promotion of this Policy and Child Safeguarding within our school:



- All staff will be aware of this policy and be available to give advice and direction on how to get support.
- This policy will be available for students to read on the College Website and SIMON.
- Our Child Safeguarding Policy and support for young people, will be promoted through student lead assemblies, by members of the Student Safeguarding Committee.
- There will be posters displayed in key areas of the College, including all classrooms; promoting awareness of unacceptable behaviours and where support can be found.
- Ways to get support will be spoken about at times in Homeroom.
- There will be regular updates on Child Safeguarding written in the newsletter to encourage parents/carers to speak about these issues with their children.

## Policy & Program Review

Lavalla Catholic College is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Safeguarding Program. The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child safeguarding related laws, regulations and standards.

This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

This Policy and Structures of Support were created by the Student Safeguarding Committee which includes students, teachers and staff.

