



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORT PIRIE
CHILD PROTECTION COUNCIL



105 Gertrude Street, PORT PIRIE SA 5540 | PO Box 1206 PORT PIRIE SA 5540

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT.

Children and young people are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and safety from physical and emotional harm.
They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded.

Everyone in the Church must ensure that the fundamental rights of children and young people are respected.

The Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie will always act in the best interest of the child and young person as demonstrated by our Commitment Statement for Safeguarding Our Children and Young People which integrates the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as the foundation for child protection.

Principles

- Respectful relationships that support the dignity of each person including children and young people are central to the life and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Children and young people deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Safeguarding children and young people is everyone's responsibility.
- Children and young people have a right to be heard regarding decisions that affect them.
- Children and young people are encouraged to participate in all dimensions of life and to develop skills to contribute to their own safety and wellbeing.
- Complaint processes are consistent with the principles of natural justice and fairness.
- All people involved in child protection issues and incidents are to be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.

Purpose

This Child Safeguarding Policy:

- Demonstrates the strong commitment of the Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie to child safety and establishing and maintaining a child safe and child friendly environment.
- Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional development for employees and volunteers.

- Ensures that staff, volunteers, children and families understand that there is shared responsibility that the Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures are accepted as a high priority.

Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Minimise and reduce the potential of risk and harm to children, young people and other vulnerable groups.
- Contribute to a process of establishing the suitability and integrity of persons working and volunteering within the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Port Pirie.
- Ensure the maintenance of optimum levels of confidentiality and security of information at all times.

Scope

This policy applies to all Diocesan clergy, religious, employees and volunteers.

Responsibilities

- The Child Protection Council is responsible for monitoring the child safeguarding policy and practices, including ongoing training needs relating to child protection issues.
- A Child Safe Contact Person has been appointed to provide support and advice to employees, volunteers, children, young people and parents regarding safety and wellbeing of children and young people in each Parish.
- All Diocesan clergy, religious, employees and volunteers are required to:
 - Hold a current Department of Human Services child related clearance or working with children check approved by the Screening and Verification Authority.
 - Have approved certification in mandatory notification training.
 - Adhere to codes of conducts which establish standards of behaviour and practices.

Supporting Documents

- Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017
- Code of Conduct
- Best Practice Guidelines for Interacting with Children and Young People
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
- National Committee for Professional Standards, Integrity in the Service of the Church
- National Committee for Professional Standards, Integrity in Ministry
- National Committee for Professional Standards, Towards Healing