Child Protection Policy

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Diocese of Wagga Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Catholic School Employees.

Rationale:
All children have a right to feel and be safe. Teachers with reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student has, or will be, exposed to injury through maltreatment have moral and legal responsibilities to report the situation to an officer of the appropriate authority.

Aims:
To ensure that children’s rights to be safe are maintained and that each child is protected against injury resulting from physical, psychological or sexual abuse.

Implementation:
- St Patrick's adopts and implements the CSO’s Child Protection Code of Professional Standards.
- St Patrick's, through the CSO, screens all employees. As of the 15th of June 2013, new staff are required to arrange their own Working with Children Check and information about how to do this is available online or at the school.
- Staff will discuss and participate in Child Protection Legislation training as required.
- Principals or teachers have a duty to report suspicion on reasonable grounds of injury to students through maltreatment.
- It is mandatory for teachers who suspect child abuse to report concerns to the Principal.
- Teachers who have reasonable grounds for suspecting a child has suffered maltreatment, or that there is substantial risk that the child will suffer maltreatment, can lawfully make such a report without fear of legal repercussion.
• The Principal and/or staff member will contact Community Services (DOCS) to report any abuse.
• All details will be fully documented and retained at the school in the Principal’s office.
• Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
• Subsequent concerns about the same child will also be brought to the attention of the Principal.
• St Patrick’s adopts and implements the CSO’s Child Protection Code of Professional Standards.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DUTY OF CARE FOR STUDENTS
St Patrick’s Primary School has adopted the Diocesan Policy.

Volunteers:
The school follows the Diocesan Policy on Volunteers. Prior to commencing, any volunteer who is not a parent or close relative of a child at St. Patrick’s School, will be required to complete a Working with Children Volunteer Check. More information is available at http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ Volunteers are required to sign in at the front office when they arrive and leave the school.

How Staff will be informed of their obligations:
Staff will be required to participate in professional development every year which reminds them of their obligations. Staff attending this professional development are required to sign the attendance sheet. If staff are unable to attend this professional development, they are required to attend when another school is delivering it. This professional development will include explanations of obligations as stated in:
The Ombudsman Act 1974
Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998
Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Amended April 2015.
Review 2018.