

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
TOWNSVILLE

CHILD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Purpose:	The purpose of this strategy is to eliminate and minimise risk to student safety to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.	
Scope:	Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.	
Status:	Approved	Supersedes: June 2019
Authorised by:	St Patrick's College Townsville Limited (Governing Body)	Date of Authorisation: February 2021
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld) • Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) • Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld) • Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (Qld) • Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) • Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld) • Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld) • Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 (Cth) • Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2018 (Qld) • Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 (Qld) • Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) • Education and Care Services National Regulations • Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld) • Blue Card Services Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy Toolkit • Restricted Person Declaration Form 	
Review Date:	Annually	Next Review Date: February 2024
Policy Owner:	St Patrick's College Townsville Limited (Governing Body)	

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Policy Statement and Statement about Commitment

St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to taking all reasonable steps to promote the safety and wellbeing of students enrolled at the College and their protection from foreseeable harm.¹

Implementation

In practice, St Patrick's College Townsville's commitment to acting in accordance to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld) ("the **Act**") to promote the safety and wellbeing of students means that it will implement the measures outlined below in points 1 - 8.

1. Code of Conduct

Employees of St Patrick's College Townsville are expected to conduct themselves as follows:

College employees are expected always to behave in ways that promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of our students. Employees must actively seek to prevent harm to students, and to support those who have been harmed.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Employees should avoid situations where they are alone in an enclosed space with a student.
- When physical contact with a student is a necessary part of the teaching/learning experience, employees must exercise caution to ensure that the contact is appropriate and acceptable.
- Employees must always advise the student of what they intend doing and seek their consent.
- Employees must not develop a relationship with any student that is, or that can be interpreted as having, a personal rather than a professional interest in a student.
- Employees must not have a romantic or sexual relationship with a student.

This commitment is evidence of St Patrick's College Townsville fulfilment of the requirements of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 ("Schedule 1")* s.2(2).

2. Recruitment, Selection, Training and Management Procedures

St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to recruiting, selecting, training and managing employees in such a way that limits risks to students. In particular, St Patrick's College Townsville will:

- Ensure that its recruitment and selection procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
 - Accurate position descriptions, including whether the successful applicant must be a teacher registered with the Queensland College of Teachers (who has been subject to relevant police and other safety checks), whether a Blue Card is necessary for the successful applicant, the responsibilities and supervision associated with the position, the nature and environment of the service provided to students, and the experience and qualifications required by the successful applicant.

¹ *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) Reg.3*

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- Advertising the position with a clear statement about the College's commitment to safe and supportive work practices and identifying that candidates will be subject to a teacher registration check or Blue Card screening, a police check, referee checks, identification verification and the requirement to disclose any information relevant to the candidates' eligibility to engage in activities which include children.
- A selection process that includes assessing the application via an interview process and referee and other checks (as identified above) based on the accurate position description.
- A probationary period of employment, which allows the College to further assess the suitability of the new employee and to act as a check on the selection process.
- Ensure that its training and management procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to students from employees via:
 - Management processes that are consistent, fair and supportive.
 - Performance management processes to help employees to improve their performance in a positive manner.
 - Supportive processes for staff when they are experiencing challenges, such as mentoring, mediation, conflict resolution, coaching, additional training, and external support and counselling services.
 - An induction program which thoroughly addresses the College's policies and procedures, particularly its expectations regarding student risk management and to assist employees to understand their role in providing a safe and supportive environment for students.
 - Training new and existing staff on an ongoing basis to enhance skills and knowledge and to reduce exposure to risks, as follows:
 - the College's policies and procedures
 - identifying, assessing and minimising risks to students
 - handling a disclosure or suspicion of harm to a child.
 - Keeping a record of the training provided to employees.
 - Exit interviews to assist the College to identify broader issues of concern that may impact on the safety and wellbeing of students at the College.

This commitment is evidence of St Patrick's College Townsville fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(3).

3. Handling Disclosures or Suspicions of Harm

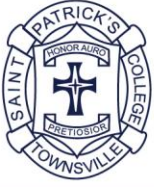
Any of the types of concerns or reports below should be reported and managed under the St Patrick's College Townsville's Child Protection Policy, as follows:

- all staff with concerns about sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse or a child sexual offence committed by an adult
- Teachers, nurses and early childhood education and care professionals with concerns of sexual or physical abuse
- all staff who have received a report of inappropriate behaviour by another staff member.

To report any type of harm, all staff members should use the Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form in Appendix 2 of this document.

Furthermore, and in accordance with section 76 of the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*, the Principal of St Patrick's College Townsville will report to the Queensland College of Teachers any investigations into

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allegations of harm caused, or likely to be caused, to a student because of the conduct of a relevant teacher at the College.

Any report made under this section or the St Patrick's College Townsville Child Protection Policy will fulfil the reporting obligations of all adults under the Criminal Code Act 1899.

This commitment is evidence of St Patrick's College Townsville fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(4).

4. Managing Breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy

St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to appropriately managing breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy in accordance with its other relevant policies as appropriate in the circumstances, such as its Child Protection Policy, Complaint & Dispute Resolution Procedures and Complaints Handling Policy and Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(5).

5. Implementing and Reviewing the Child Risk Management Strategy

This Strategy in its entirety and its related policies and procedures are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 2.2(6)(a) relating to implementation.

The introduction to this Child Risk Management Strategy and the "Compliance and Monitoring" section below state St Patrick's College Townsville's commitment to reviewing the Strategy annually and are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(6)(a) relating to review.

6. Blue Card Policies and Procedures

St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to acting in accordance with chapters 7 and 8 of the Act relating to the screening of employees in such a way that limits risks to children. In particular, St Patrick's College Townsville will:

- Require relevant prospective or current employees, volunteers, trainee students and College Board members to have working with children authority, and check the validity and appropriateness of any currently held notices, in accordance with St Patrick's College Townsville position descriptions and the Act prior to the commencement of their engagement.
- Not allow a person to continue to work with children if their working with child authority is cancelled or suspended or a negative notice is received after a change of police information.
- Have all relevant prospective employees and volunteers engaging in Restricted Employment acknowledge and sign a Restricted Person Declaration Form declaring they are not a restricted person prior to commencing their engagement.
- Not allow a person relying on an exemption to continue to work with children if they become a restricted person.
- Link and unlink individuals as they commence and conclude their engagement with the College.
- Appoint a College contact person who will be responsible for managing the working with child screening process and all related documentation and records.

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- Keep written records of all the above actions, decisions and outcomes, including the dates of expiry for working with children authority.
- Ensure that all information in relation to working with children authority is kept confidential.
- Act to remind employees to keep their working with children authority up to date and apply for a renewal prior to expiry.
- Take appropriate action if an employee, volunteer, trainee student or College Board member fails to submit a renewal application prior to their working with children authority expiring.

This commitment is evidence of St Patrick's College Townsville fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(6)(b).

7. High Risk Management Plans

St Patrick's College Townsville Risk Management Framework is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(7).

8. Strategies of Communication and Support

St Patrick's College Townsville's commitment to making this Child Risk Management Strategy available to students, parents and employees via its employee handbook and College website is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(8)(a).

St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to training employees in relation to risks to students and will conduct this training regularly via annual formal training, informal updates at staff meetings and regular discussions between managers and their staff, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(8)(b).

Responsibilities

St Patrick's College Townsville is responsible for developing and implementing this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures to ensure it fulfils its obligations.

All employees at St Patrick's College Townsville are responsible for acting in compliance with this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures.

Compliance and Monitoring

St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to the annual review of this Strategy. St Patrick's College Townsville will also record, monitor and report to the St Patrick's College Townsville Limited (Governing Body) and the College Leadership Team regarding any breaches of the Strategy.

In addition, St Patrick's College Townsville is committed to other various compliance and monitoring arrangements made under relevant policies and procedures.

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Related Documents

- St Patrick's College Townsville Child Protection Policy
- St Patrick's College Townsville Complaint & Dispute Resolution Procedures
- St Patrick's College Complaints Handling Policy
- St Patrick's College Townsville Blue Card Register
- St Patrick's College Townsville Risk Management Framework
- St Patrick's College Townsville Staff Code of Conduct
- St Patrick's College Townsville Restricted Person Declaration Form

Helpful Links

- Independent Schools Queensland's [Child Protection Decision Support Trees](#)
- Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs [Child Protection Guide](#) resource
- [Blue Card Services resources](#)

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Summary of Reporting Harm
- Appendix 2 – Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form (Student Protection Reporting Form)

Appendix 1

Summary of Reporting Harm

Who	What abuse	Test	Report to	Legislation
All staff	Sexual	Awareness or a suspicion Sexually abused or likely to be sexually abused	Principal, through to police immediately	EGPA sections 366 and 366A
Teacher	Sexual and physical	Significant harm; & Parent may not be willing and able	Confer with principal, report to Child Safety	CPA sections 13E and 13G
All staff	Physical, psychological, emotional, neglect, exploitation	Significant harm, & Parent may not be willing and able	Principal, through to Child Safety	Accreditation Regulation section 16
All staff	Any	Not a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer with consent	Principal, through to Family and Child Connect	CPA Sections 13B and 159M



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Principal	Any	Not a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer without consent	Family and Child Connect	CPA Sections 13B and 159M
Employing authority (Principal/Board)	Harm or likely harm due to the conduct of a teacher	When you start to deal with an allegation; & When you finish dealing with an allegation	Queensland College of Teachers	QCT sections 76 and 77
Any member of the public	Any	Significant harm & Parent may not be willing and able	Child Safety	CPA section 13A
Any adult	A child sexual offence against a child by an adult	Gains information that causes the adult to believe on reasonable grounds, or ought reasonably to cause the adult to believe, that a child sexual offence is being or has been committed and (b) at the relevant time, the child is or was— (i) under 16 years; or (ii) a person with an impairment of the mind.	Police	Criminal Code section 229BC

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Appendix 2

Private and Confidential

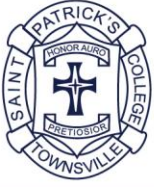
Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse

Date:
School:
School Phone:
School Email:

DETAILS OF STUDENT/CHILD HARMED OR AT RISK OF HARM/ABUSE:	
Legal Name:	Preferred Name:
DOB:	Gender:
Year Level:	Cultural Background:
Primary language spoken:	
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the student have a disability verified under EAP: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Disability Category:
Student's Residential Address:	Phone:
	Student's Personal Mobile:

FAMILY DETAILS	
Parent/caregiver 1:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H): (W): (M):	
Parent/caregiver 2:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H): (W): (M):	
Is the student in out of home care? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any Family Court or Domestic Violence orders in place? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	

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PERSON ALLEGED TO HAVE CAUSED THE HARM OR ABUSE

- ☐ Adult family member ☐ Child family member ☐ Other adult
- ☐ Student/other child ☐ Unknown

PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION YOU HAVE WHICH LED TO THE SUSPICION OF HARM OR ABUSE (Attach extra pages if necessary).

Details of any harm and/or sexual abuse to the student – please include: Time and date of the incident; location of the incident, source of information; details of person alleged to have caused the harm or sexual abuse; physical appearance of any injury; immediate and ongoing safety concerns; any disclosures made by student; any previous incidents of harm; behavioural indicators of harm; presence of any medical needs or developmental delays; and if the information relates to an unborn child, the alleged risk to the unborn child.

Please indicate the identity of anyone else who may have information about the harm or abuse

Additional information provided as an attachment YES ☐ NO ☐

Name of staff member making report if not the Principal:

Position:	Signature:	Date:
Principal:	Signature:	Date:

Principal's email address:

Response requested by school:

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ACTION TAKEN

Form was emailed to (please tick which agencies the form was sent to):

☐

Queensland Police Services (QPS)

☐

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
(Child Safety Services)

☐

Family and Child Connect

☐

Queensland College of Teachers

(Adapted from EQ SP-4 Report of Suspected Harm or Risk of Harm)

Confirm receipt of emailed form and ensure original is stored in a secure location along with any other documentation collected for the purpose of this report.