

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Statement of commitment:

"In caring for children and young people, we strive to always act in their best interest and take all reasonable steps to ensure their protection.

This involves a sincere commitment to upholding children's rights to safety and their wellbeing, and taking comprehensive steps to create a child safe school organisation and culture, with shared responsibility requiring all Armidale CSO personnel to work together within a comprehensive framework to ensure action and accountability for child safety.

Armidale Catholic Schools is committed to fulfilling its obligations and seeks to develop best practice to identify and address risk and harm, and to promote the wellbeing of all children and young people in our schools. The dignity of the human person is a central truth of the Gospel message of Jesus. In respecting the dignity of all human persons, Catholic School communities are called to ensure the welfare and safety of all of their members.

The protection of the students entrusted to our care, then, is a very serious responsibility. In taking up this responsibility along with parents, who are recognised as the primary educators and carers of their children, Catholic School communities are committed to ensuring Catholic Schools have at their centre the total care of the whole student.

In New South Wales child protection legislation underscores the shared responsibility that agencies (including schools) have for child protection, and the need to work together in ways that demonstrate that children and young people are valued and that their welfare is a priority. This includes taking seriously their views and fostering healthy relationships between children, family, school and the community.

As a child safe organisation, our schools seek to consciously and systematically:

- Create an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is the centre of thought, values and actions,*
- Place emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children,*
- Create conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people,*
- Create conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm,*
- Respond to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm.*

Each of our schools seeks to take a leadership role in the way it values and supports students, and work cooperatively with others for the well-being of the students."