

Child Protection Fact Sheet

Introduction:

Creek Street Christian College is committed to providing a caring, safe and accepting environment for students. All children have a right to feel safe. Creek Street Christian College is committed to child safety and we have a zero tolerance to child abuse.

All adults have a responsibility to care for children and to protect them from any kind of abuse or neglect. The college is responsible to provide a safe environment for children and to provide an education which supports their social, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being. We are entrusted by parents to care for their children as individually created and valued by God.

Types of Child abuse:

Child abuse has a significant effect on a child's physical or emotional health, development and well-being. The younger a child is the more vulnerable they are and the more serious the consequences are likely to be.

Types of child abuse include: Physical, Emotional, Neglect, Medical Neglect, Sexual Abuse, Family Violence and Risk-taking Behaviour.

RESPONDING TO A REPORT OF HARM

If a child tells you about harm, you need to be well prepared so that you can be supportive of the student and clear about your responsibilities at the same time. The Creek Street Christian College community has a duty of care to take immediate action.

The person to whom the child has disclosed should:

- Actively listen to the student and never probe for details or ask leading questions;
- Reassure the child that they haven't done anything wrong
- Talk gently and reassuringly, pointing out you are there to help
- Do not take a written statement from the child you believe the incident being reported to you maybe subject to mandatory reporting
- Where the harm is taking place outside the school's control, never assure the student that the harm will stop as that cannot be guaranteed
- Do not make promises that you will not tell anyone; in fact, you should disclose that you have a responsibility to tell the principal.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE CONCERNS?

- You need to be aware of the indicators of child abuse
- Document your concerns including any behavioural observations you have had with the child or young person
- If anyone reports actual or suspected abuse you should report this immediately to the Principal at Creek Street Christian College.

- Our Chaplain Pastor Hickman is also available to speak with parents and students should they need an additional person to talk with.
- **Call the police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child's safety.**

**All children have a right to feel safe and to be safe.
Our school has a zero tolerance to child abuse.**