



Gulf Christian College
Creating Opportunity

Policy No. 1

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ASSOCIATED POLICIES ARE:

- 1.1 CHILD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
- 1.1.1 RESTRICTED PERSONS DECLARATION FORM

Original Policy adopted from Nambour Christian College 2011 and replaced previous policy. <i>Subsequent Policy adopted from ISQ policy template dated July 2021 – first adopted Aug 2022</i>						
ADOPTED GCC	11 August 2011					
REVISED	2013 04 30	2015 05 18	2016 05 24	2016 10 25	2016 11 21	2018 05 15
REVISED	2021 03 24	2021 11 16	2022 01 12	2022 08 16		

Child Protection Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to provide written processes about – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) how the school will respond to harm, or allegations of harm, to students under 18 years; and (b) the appropriate conduct of the school’s staff and students to comply with accreditation requirements.	
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 at Gulf Christian College Ltd and covers information about the reporting of harm and abuse.	
Status:	Draft until 16 th August 2022	Supersedes: 12.01.2022
Authorised by:	School Governing Body Chairperson	Date of Authorisation: tbc
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulations 2020 (Qld)</u> ▪ <u>Criminal Code Act 1899</u> ▪ GCC Formal Complaints Policy & Procedure ▪ GCC Child Risk Management Strategy (for the <i>Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)</i>) ▪ GCC Work Health and Safety Policy (for the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)</i>) ▪ GCC Child Protection Reporting Form 	
Review Date:	Annually	Next Review Date: February 2023
Policy Owner:	School Governing Body	

Definitions

- Section 9 of the *Child Protection Act 1999* - “Harm”, to a child, is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing.
 1. It is immaterial how the harm is caused.
 2. Harm can be caused by—
 - a) physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect; or
 - b) sexual abuse or exploitation.
 3. Harm can be caused by—
 - a) a single act, omission or circumstance; or
 - b) a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.
- Section 10 of the *Child Protection Act 1999* - A “child in need of protection” is a child who—
 - a) has suffered significant harm, is suffering significant harm, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm; and
 - b) does not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from the harm.
- Section 364 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* – “Sexual abuse”, in relation to a relevant person, includes sexual behaviour involving the relevant person and another person in the following circumstances –
 - (a) the other person bribes, coerces, exploits, threatens or is violent toward the relevant person;
 - (b) the relevant person has less power than the other person;
 - (c) there is a significant disparity between the relevant person and the other person in intellectual capacity or maturity.

Health and Safety

The school has written processes in place to enable it to comply with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Qld) and the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld).

Responding to Reports of Harm

When the school receives any information alleging 'harm'¹ to a student (other than harm arising from physical or sexual abuse) it will deal with the situation compassionately and fairly so as to minimise any likely harm to the extent it reasonably can. This is set out in the school’s Child Risk Management Strategy. Information relating to physical or sexual abuse is handled under obligations to report set out in this policy².

Conduct of Staff and Students

All staff, contractors and volunteers must ensure that their behaviour towards and relationships with students reflect proper standards of care for students. Staff, contractors and volunteers must not cause harm to students³.

¹ *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(7)*: the definition of 'harm' for this regulation is the same as in section 9 of the *Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)*

² *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(1)*

³ *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(1)*

Reporting Inappropriate Behaviour

If a student considers the behaviour of a staff member to be inappropriate, the student should report the behaviour to any of the following Child Protection Officers⁴: -

- Ms Lynn Morrison (Principal)
- Mrs Lynne Doneley (Board Chair and board delegate)
- Mrs Cynthia Thomas (Teacher)
- Mr Jonathan Beales (Teacher)

Dealing with Report of Inappropriate Behaviour

A staff member who receives a report of inappropriate behaviour must report it to the principal. Where the principal is the subject of the report of inappropriate behaviour, the staff member must inform a member of the school's governing body⁵. Reports will be dealt with under the school's Complaints Handling Policy.

Reporting Sexual Abuse⁶

Section 366 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* states that if a staff member becomes aware, or reasonably suspects, in the course of their employment at the school, that any of the following has been sexually abused by another person:

- a) a student under 18 years attending the school;
- b) a kindergarten aged child registered in a kindergarten learning program at the school;
- c) a person with a disability who:
 - i. under section 420(2) of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* is being provided with special education at the school; and
 - ii. is not enrolled in the preparatory year at the school.

then the staff member must give a written report about the abuse or suspected abuse to the principal or to a director of the school's governing body immediately.

The school's principal or the director must immediately give a copy of the report to a police officer.

(Under section 366B of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* the directors of a school's governing body may delegate the directors' function under section 366 to an appropriately qualified individual (this cannot be the principal or any other staff member of the school). Directors should ensure they are well briefed about the requirements of section 366B before delegating this function, including identifying the delegation in this policy and informing the school community of the delegate/s name/s their contacts, and their role in the school's processes.)

⁴ *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(2) and s.16(3)*

⁵ *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(2)*

⁶ *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(2)(c)*

If the first person who becomes aware or reasonably suspects sexual abuse is the school's principal, the principal must give a written report about the abuse, or suspected abuse to a police officer immediately and must also give a copy of the report to a director of the school's governing body immediately.

A report under this section must include the following particulars: -

- a) the name of the person giving the report (the *first person*);
- b) the student's name and sex;
- c) details of the basis for the first person becoming aware, or reasonably suspecting, that the student has been sexually abused by another person;
- d) details of the abuse or suspected abuse;
- e) any of the following information of which the first person is aware: -
 - i. the student's age;
 - ii. the identity of the person who has abused, or is suspected to have abused, the student;
 - iii. the identity of anyone else who may have information about the abuse or suspected abuse⁷.

Reporting Likely Sexual Abuse⁸

Section 366A of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 states that if a staff member reasonably suspects in the course of their employment at the school, that any of the following is likely to be sexually abused by another person: -

- a) a student under 18 years attending the school;
- b) a kindergarten aged child registered in a kindergarten learning program at the school; c) a person with a disability who: -
 - i. under section 420(2) of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 is being provided with special education at the school; and
 - ii. is not enrolled in the preparatory year at the school.

then the staff member must give a written report about the suspicion to the principal or to a director of the school's governing body immediately.

The school's principal or the director must immediately give a copy of the report to a police officer.

(Under section 366B of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* the directors of a school's governing body may delegate the directors' function under section 366 to an appropriately qualified individual (this cannot be the principal or any other staff member of the school). Directors should ensure they are well briefed about the requirements of section 366B before delegating this function, including identifying the delegation in this policy and informing the school community of the delegate/s name/s, their contacts and their role in the school's processes.)

If the first person who reasonably suspects likely sexual abuse is the school's principal, the principal must give a written report about the suspicion to a police officer immediately and must also give a copy of the report to a director of the school's governing body immediately.

⁷ Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.68

⁸ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(2)(c)

A report under this section must include the following particulars: -

- a) the name of the person giving the report (the *first person*);
- b) the student's name and sex;
- c) details of the basis for the first person reasonably suspecting that the student is likely to be sexually abused by another person;
- d) any of the following information of which the first person is aware: -
 - i. the student's age;
 - ii. the identity of the person who is suspected to be likely to sexually abuse the student;
 - iii. the identity of anyone else who may have information about suspected likelihood of abuse⁹.

Reporting Physical and Sexual Abuse¹⁰

Under Section 13E (3) of the *Child Protection Act* 1999, if a doctor, a registered nurse, a teacher or an early childhood education and care professional forms a 'reportable suspicion' about a child "in the course of their engagement in their profession", they must make a written report.

A reportable suspicion about a child is a reasonable suspicion that the child: -

- a) has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse; and
- b) may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from the harm.

The doctor, nurse, teacher or early childhood education and care professional must give a written report to the Chief Executive of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (or another department administering the *Child Protection Act* 1999). The doctor, nurse, teacher or early childhood education and care professional should give a copy of the report to the principal.

A report under this section must include the following particulars: -

- a) the child's name and sex;
- b) the child's age;
- c) details of how to contact the child;
- d) details of the harm to which the reportable suspicion relates;
- e) particulars of the identity of the person suspected of causing the child to have suffered, suffer, or be at risk of suffering, the harm to which the reportable suspicion relates;
- f) particulars of the identity of any other person who may be able to give information about the harm to which the reportable suspicion relates¹¹.

The regional Child Safety Regional Intake Services for Normanton within the business hours of Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm are listed below. Outside of these hours, you can contact the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre on phone freecall 1800 177 135 (Queensland only):

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Regional Intake Services (Child Safety & Disability Services): | 1300 684 062 |
| • Normanton Police Services: | 07 4745 2555 |
| • Normanton Police Liaison Officer (PLO – Ms Katrina Rapson): | 0457 544 393 |
| • Bynoe CACS & CDP (former F.A.C.E Team): | 0439 571 989 |

⁹ Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.69

¹⁰ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16 (2)(d)

¹¹ See *Child Protection Regulation 2011 (Qld) s.10* "Information to be included in report to chief executive"

Awareness

The school will inform staff, students and parents of its processes relating to the health, safety and conduct of staff and students in communications to them and it will publish these processes on its website, through school newsletters, staff induction processes, student assemblies, student diaries, during enrolment interviews and available from the school office¹².

Accessibility of Processes

Processes relating to the health, safety and conduct of staff and students are accessible on the school website and will be available on request from the school administration¹³.

Training

The school will train its staff in processes relating to the health, safety and conduct of staff and students on their induction and will refresh training annually¹⁴.

As evidence of this annual and regular training the following will take place:

- Annual staff attendance register of ISQ online Child Protection Training
- Minutes of Staff Meetings
- Staff Induction Checklist – noted and signed by new staff member and supervisor
- Regular Principal Report to Board regarding Child Protection incidents
- Regular Principal Report to Board regarding Formal Complaints received
- Annual Board Child Protection Compliance Checklist
- Annual board Formal Complaints Compliance Checklist
- Review of all relevant Child Protection and Complaints policies

Implementing the Processes

The school will ensure it is implementing processes relating to the health, safety and conduct of staff and students by auditing compliance with the processes annually¹⁵.

Complaints Procedure

Suggestions of non-compliance with the school's processes may be submitted as complaints under GCC Formal Complaints Policy¹⁶.

Note: Reporting under this policy fulfils the obligations for reporting a child sexual offence that is being or has been committed against a child by an adult under the *Criminal Code Act 1899* s.229BC¹⁷.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required

¹² Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(4)(a)

¹³ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(4)(b)

¹⁴ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(4)(c)

¹⁵ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(4)(d)

¹⁶ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s.16(5) and s.16(6)

¹⁷ Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld) s.229BC(4)(b)

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:		
Name and Position:	Signature:	Date:
Principal:	Signature:	Date:
Principal's email address:		
Response requested by school:		

ACTION TAKEN		
Form was faxed or emailed to (please tick which agencies the form was sent to):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Queensland Police Services (QPS)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family and Child Connect

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

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