



De La Salle College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Introduction

Catholic education is an active partnership between family and school, where families are recognised as the first and ongoing educators of their children. Schools and families partner in the shared privilege and responsibility for children and young people

At De La Salle College, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel (CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety).

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of our Catholic school (Congregation for Catholic Education 1997, n. 9).

Protection for children and young people is based upon the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and that the inherent dignity of all should be recognised and fostered.

Catholic schools are entrusted with the holistic education of the child, in partnership with parents, guardians and caregivers who are the primary educators of their children. Catholic school staff therefore have a duty of care to students by taking reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which they can reasonably foresee would be likely to result in harm or injury to the student and to work for the positive wellbeing of the child.

Under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031, protecting children is everyone's responsibility – parents, communities, governments and business all have a role to play. In Victoria, a joint protocol, Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, involving the Department of Family, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Child Protection, the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) and licensed children's services, exists to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. All teachers, other staff, parish priests, canonical and religious order administrators of Catholic schools within Victoria must understand and abide by the professional, moral and legal obligations to implement child protection and child safety and wellbeing policies, protocols and practices.

Mission

De La Salle College is a Catholic College in the Lasallian tradition, enabling students in a community of faith and excellence to achieve their full potential with integrity and distinction.

"The way you behave should be a model for those you teach."

St John Baptist de La Salle

(Med 178.1 – Feast of St Luke, evangelist)

- any new (or substantially revised) policies or programs that impact in different ways on the lives of people from diverse circumstances shall, wherever possible, be developed by De La Salle College in consultation with people from those backgrounds. For any new (or substantially revised) policies or services, our organisation will develop a communication strategy sufficiently resourced to inform people from diverse circumstances and/or relevant cultural and linguistic backgrounds of these changes
- ensure publicly available resources and accessible information on our policies and procedures are communicated appropriately to people from a range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds
- where required, provide information in languages other than English, and through print, electronic media, and disability-appropriate methods of communication
- provide a 'complaints/ reporting' mechanism and policy that enables people (regardless of cultural and linguistic backgrounds) to address issues and raise concerns about De La Salle College personnel and performance
- where possible, provide for the particular needs of children and young people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds by providing language assistance through the use of interpreters or facilitators
- where possible, provide for the additional needs of children and young people in remote areas through developing outreach and community liaison arrangements
- consider diversity and cultural and sensitivities in the design and delivery of any training programs provided
- provide personnel with regular, relevant diversity and cultural sensitivity training so that they develop knowledge and skills in cultural competency
- promote diversity in the membership of our board, committees and working groups
- ensure all people have equal access to advertised positions, interviews, equipment, office accommodation, training and promotion.

In considering principles of participation, we will ensure that:

- Children and young people are listened to
- Children and young people are supported in expressing their views

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Student Wellbeing
Approving body/individual	MACS Board
Approval date	13 April 2022
Risk rating	High
Date of next review	April 2023

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Related documents	
Superseded documents	
New policy	New