

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School 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's faith formation, learning, safety and wellbeing.

At St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School, 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).

Vision Statement

St Gregory the Great School
is called to serve the children and families
of St Gregory the Great Parish
and the wider community.
We hold and teach the beliefs and practices
of the Catholic church,
engage with parents,
and inspire in our children
a passion for
Loving and Learning.

Mission Statement

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary school is called to serve the children and families of St Gregory the Great Parish, Doncaster.

In fulfilment of our mission, we at St Gregory the Great school will:

- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, heed his call to be a centre of evangelisation for children and their families, encouraging them to full sacramental participation in the life of the church which He founded**
- **Willingly accept the mandate of, and directives regarding, Catholic education from the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne**

- Be an inseparable component of the parish of St. Gregory the Great actively bearing witness to the Catholic faith in all our activities
- Adhere to, and teach the practices, teachings, and beliefs of the Catholic church
- Encourage our children to develop a loving relationship with God and encourage them to live out the gospel values in their own lives
- Work in partnership with parents as the primary educators of their children
- Encourage families to be active in the life of the parish and school
- Implement a broad curriculum to encourage children to reach their full potential spiritually, socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically
- Provide for our children, challenging experiences tailored to:
 - meet their individual needs
 - encourage the development of self esteem and an awareness of their gifts
 - develop a sense of responsibility and a desire to serve others
 - engender a lifelong love of learning
- Without prejudice to Catholic teachings the programs and teaching of St Gregory the Great school will support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy including a commitment to the elected government, the rule of law, equal rights for all before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and association and the values of openness and tolerance.
- In fulfilment of this part of our mission we, at St Gregory the Great school, will prepare our children to take their place in an ever-changing society, confident of their own individuality, and accepting and respectful of the individual differences of all people.

Horizons of Hope Foundation Statement

The *Horizons of Hope Families as Partners in Catholic School Communities Strategy Statement* outlines the vision for family partnerships and engagement in a Catholic school. This statement is the latest addition to the suite of strategies under the *Horizons of Hope Education Framework* for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

1. The three major contexts in which children learn are the family, the school and the community. Families are the first educators of their children, and when the child moves beyond the earliest years, families are joined by a school on their child's learning journey. This is when a long-term partnership between home and school begins.
2. In choosing a Catholic school, parents enter a partnership with the school in which there is shared privilege and responsibility for the child's faith formation, learning and wellbeing.
3. When Catholic schools and families work together for the formation of all children, the school community is strengthened, and the whole of society benefits as a sense of ownership and belonging to community grows for children and young people, and for their families (Bryk et al. 2010).
4. Families are honoured in a Catholic school community in three main ways:
 - **Encounter through partnership** – encounter happens when the sacred dignity of each person in the partnership is honoured, with each person learning alongside the other
 - **Activating engagement** – leaders, teachers, families and children each have a role to play to strengthen the relationship between school and home

- **Three-way learning relationship** – parents, teachers and children come together in a three-way learning relationship to support the full flourishing of each and every child.

CECV Statement of Commitment to Child Safety -

<https://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/getmedia/b9155052-8eb2-48e3-9384-b5ff8407941d/Commitment-Statement-A3.aspx>

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions that we have in place at St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School to ensure that families, carers and other members of the school community are informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at the school.

This Policy takes into account the specific requirements of the Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359.

Scope

This Policy applies to school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy. It should be read in conjunction with related school policies and procedures, including:

1. Child Safety Framework
2. Child Safety Code of Conduct
3. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Principles

At St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School, the following principles underpin our commitment to family engagement:

- Families and carers should have the opportunity to participate in decisions relating to child safety and wellbeing which affect their child.
- Our school engages and openly communicates with families, carers and other members of the school community about our child safe approach.
- All members of the school community should have access to information relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community must have the opportunity to provide input into the development and review of the school's policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community have the right to be informed about the operations and governance of the school in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

Policy

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all members of our school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School.

We implement the following strategies and actions to ensure that we are able to meet this commitment.

Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal, the school governing authority and school leaders at St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School recognise their particular responsibilities to communicate and engage with families, carers and other

members of the school community in relation to issues regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- utilising the St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy to inform and guide curriculum planning, policies and practices
- supporting staff, through appropriate professional learning, to strengthen their communication and engagement skills and to understand the value and importance of effective communication and engagement
- identifying opportunities for parents and carers to participate in decisions that affect their child's safety and wellbeing
- ensuring that existing policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing are made publicly available so that they are easily accessible to families, carers and other members of the school community
- engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community to collaboratively develop and periodically review policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing
- creating opportunities to ensure that members of the school community are adequately informed about the school's operations and governance relating to child safety and wellbeing

Strategies / actions used by school staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School also have a responsibility to support the school governing authority and school leaders in communicating and engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community regarding child safety and wellbeing.

Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- creating and maintaining open lines of communication with families, carers and other members of the school community, particularly with respect to child safety and wellbeing matters
- liaising with parents and carers in relation to any concerns and/or decisions that affect their child and giving them the opportunity to contribute to any discussions, where appropriate
- ensuring that parents, carers and others in the school community are updated and involved in child safety and wellbeing
- ensuring they act in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy when managing issues relating to child safety and wellbeing

External references

Related Resources – Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

[eXcel: Wellbeing for learning in Catholic school communities](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Vision and Context](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Families as Partners](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Wellbeing](#)

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed in consultation with members of the wider community as part of the school's two-year review cycle of its child safety practices.
- Update of the policy will occur if any new requirements come to hand.

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