



St. Joseph's Primary School

Child protection Policy

2015

RATIONALE

The Catholic Church in Australia has made an unambiguous commitment to promoting the protection of children. NSW legislation and Church regulations set out a range of personal, professional and organizational requirements for the promotion of child protection, reporting concerns and conducting investigations. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has a legal and moral obligation to promote the protection of children from abuse or neglect.

One of the cornerstones of protecting children is to report concerns relating to their safety, welfare or well being. There is a complex interrelationship in NSW between child protection concerns and matters that may require reporting to and investigation by internal Diocesan resources or external authorities, including the NSW Police Force, Department of Human Services (previously DoCS) and the NSW Ombudsman.

Zimmerman House is a child protection unit established by the Bishop to act as a specialist resource for the Diocese. Zimmerman House will assist Diocesan members in meeting their reporting obligations and ensure that there is an appropriate record kept of any concerns raised.

AIMS

- to ensure the safety of all children enrolled at St Joseph's School
- to ensure that all staff are aware of and act upon their legal and moral responsibility as mandatory reporters
- to ensure all staff are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of suspected child abuse
- to ensure that St Joseph's School follows the procedures set out by the Maitland and Newcastle "Reporting Child Protection concerns policy."

IMPLEMENTATION

PERSONNEL

Class teachers, staff, workers and volunteers at the school.

PROCEDURES

- † All staff at St Joseph's will follow the procedures set out by the Maitland and Newcastle "Reporting Child Protection concerns policy."
- † The flow chart for *reporting Child protection concerns* will be used as support
- † All staff will receive Child protection training as provided by Zimmerman House
- † All volunteers will provide working with Children Clearance as per the *Working with children Procedures 2015* document.

- ✦ All staff will follow the Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Catholic School Employees.

BUDGET

The school will fund any necessary costs incurred to meet the needs of this policy.

EVALUATION

This policy will be evaluated every three years by staff, or sooner if the need arises and reviewed at the beginning of each school year.

To be reviewed: 2018