

## Safeguarding our students

The safeguarding of our students is the top priority of our schools and the Catholic Education Office.

Safeguarding is a term used to describe the protection of and human rights of vulnerable people. This may be due to their age, culture or trauma background, or they may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Catholic Education Canberra and Goulburn is committed to complying with Child Safe Standards. We have been working with our schools to meet these requirements.



## Our commitment to every student

Catholic Education Canberra and Goulburn is committed to keeping children safe in all schools. We have adopted the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Child Safeguarding Commitment, which states:



CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

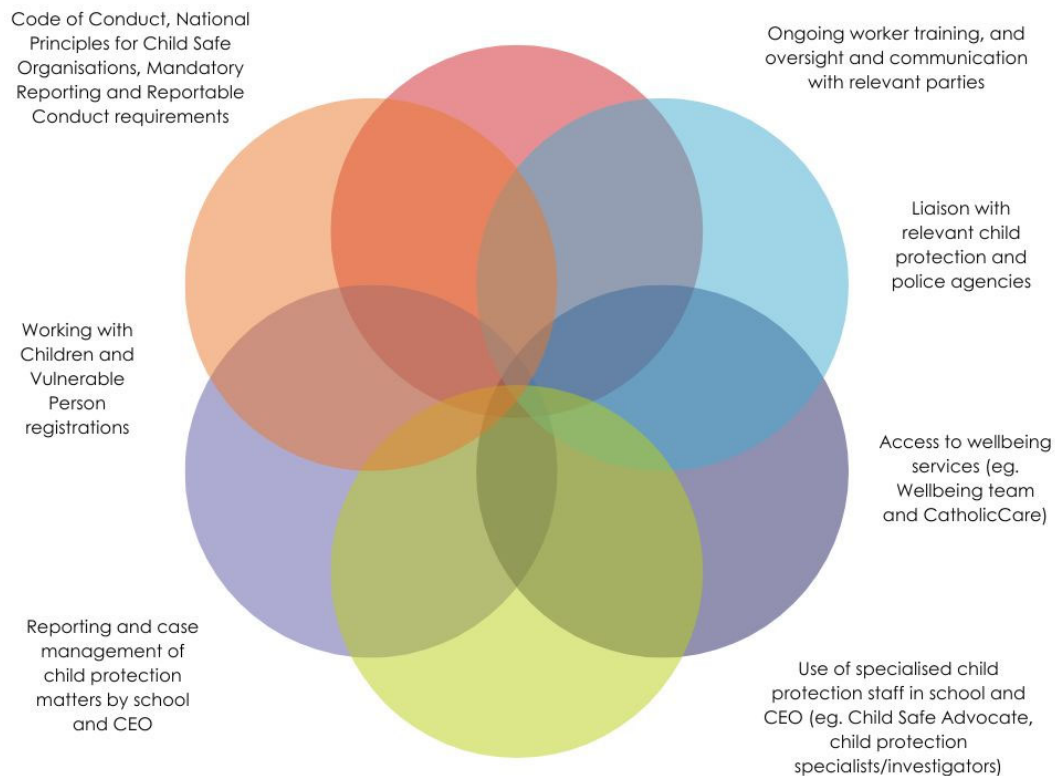
# CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

<p>The Archdiocese is committed to creating a safe environment and instituting procedures to prevent abuse whilst responding to allegations and disclosures of abuse.</p>	<p>All children and vulnerable people have a right to safety and freedom from abuse of any kind.</p>	<p>All adults working with children and vulnerable people have a responsibility to care for them, to promote their wellbeing and to protect them from any form of abuse.</p>
<p>The integrity of the family unit is respected but not to the detriment of the child or vulnerable person and the right of the child or vulnerable person to be heard.</p>	<p>The dignity of persons involved in situations where abuse is suspected or disclosed should be respected; they should be treated with fairness, sensitivity, dignity and respect. In the interests of justice, appropriate confidentiality must be maintained, with information that relates to suspected or disclosed abuse being provided only to those who have a right or a need to be informed.</p>	<p>When any action is taken to prevent or respond to any type of abuse, the welfare and wellbeing of the child or vulnerable person is the primary concern.</p>

## Our safeguarding approach

Our approach to child safeguarding is outlined in our [Child Safety Policy](#). This policy includes the CECG Commitment Statement, the many aspects of child safety, how we ensure young people are safe, and our compliance with the Child Safe Standards.

Our approach to child safety may be visualised as a 'web' or curriculum, with many aspects linking together to contribute to its strength. As a child safe organisation, we strive to understand and follow our legal obligations, use contemporary safeguarding practices and involve all stakeholders – particularly children and families – in safeguarding functions.



## **Our legal obligations**

As a child safe organisation we are required to comply with the Child Safe Standards, the Mandatory Reporting requirements for children in the ACT and NSW, the working with children/vulnerable person schemes and, in the ACT, the Senior Practitioner Scheme.

## **Parents and carers as partners**

We see parents and carers as partners in their children's educational journey, experience and safeguarding. It is important for us to work together collaboratively to respond to safeguarding concerns, subject to the involvement of other agencies, including child protection and police.

## **Useful links for families and schools**

[Office of the Children's Guardian NSW](#)

[Australian Human Rights Commission](#)

[ACT Human Rights Commission](#)

[National Office for Child Safety](#)

[NSW Child Protection Services](#)

[ACT Child Protection Services](#)

[Marymead CatholicCare ACT](#)

[Kids Helpline](#)

[Beyond Blue](#)

[Lifeline](#)

[Headspace](#)

[The Daniel Morcombe Foundation](#)