

STUDENT PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

Villanova College supports the rights of children and young people and is committed to ensure the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of all children. Villanova College is therefore committed to responding to allegations of harm resulting from the conduct or actions of any person including that of employees.

This commitment includes the provision of a safe and supportive living and learning environment for all children and young people and requires all employees, volunteers and visitors to model and encourage behaviour that upholds the dignity and protection of students from harm.

In support of this commitment, Villanova College is dedicated to their Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy which includes having relevant policies, procedures, and training in place to effectively address the safety and wellbeing of students in their care. (*Villanova College Statement of Commitment*).

Principles

All staff members and adult volunteers of Villanova College have a responsibility to care for each Villanova student, to promote his welfare and to protect him from any kind of inappropriate behaviour, harm, or sexual abuse.

Each Villanova student has a right to safety in relationships as part of his total education and therefore should be protected against inappropriate behaviour, harm, sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse caused by school staff, volunteers, other Villanova students and other persons within and beyond the immediate school community.

All persons involved in situations where inappropriate behaviour, harm, sexual abuse, or likely sexual abuse to a Villanova student is suspected or disclosed, must be treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect (as far as possible, subject to legislative and other legal requirements).

Implementation

Villanova College is committed to the prevention of inappropriate behaviour, harm, sexual abuse, or likely sexual abuse by:

- Developing strategies which will fulfil the letter and the spirit of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* and the *Child Protection Act 1999*.
- Abiding by the relevant provisions in the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*.
- Abiding by the precepts and directions found in *The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2019)*.

This policy is at all times to be read in conjunction with the *Villanova College Student Protection Processes* available at <https://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/our-college/policies-and-documents/>.

Review

Implementation Date: May 2020

Reviewed on: 31 May 2021

Reviewed on: 20 March 2023