



# CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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## Policy Statement

Villanova College is committed to fostering a caring community where all members are recognised and treated as valued individuals. Villanova College supports the rights of children and young people and is committed to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children. This commitment includes the provision of a safe and supportive living and learning environment for all children and young people.

## What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Child safeguarding describes the specific actions that are taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This encompasses protecting children from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to children's health or development, and ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care that enables them to have optimum life chances and ender adulthood successfully.

## Introduction

The Villanova College Board are ultimately responsible for ensuring that Villanova College is a safe environment for children and adults at risk.

The Chair of the Board has delegated the authority for handling safeguarding matters to the College Principal and his/her delegates.

The Principal is responsible for guiding the College Board on:

- The implementation of jurisdictional and national child safe standards
- Safeguarding practices for safe cultures, including communication and engagement with stakeholders, and
- Best practice accountability and governance structures for safeguarding children and at-risk adults

The day to day safeguarding work is led and managed by the Principal and his/her delegates.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure children, young people and families understand the protective practices put in place by Villanova College
- Ensure everyone recognises and embraces their critical role in keeping children safe and fostering a culture of openness
- Ensure diverse cultural perspectives are respected, while recognising that such difference do not diminish a child's right to be safe or the College's responsibility to protect the child from harm. This applies to all children regardless of age, culture, religion, gender or disability

If you have concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person at Villanova College, please contact the Principal in the first instance.



The Principal will listen to your concerns with respect and explain the available options to you.

Breaches of this policy can lead to disciplinary action including possible dismissal and criminal proceedings.

### **Other Relevant Policies, Procedures and Documents**

Villanova College Anti-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Bullying Policy

Villanova College Charter of Commitment to Children and Young People

Villanova College Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy

Villanova College Community Expectations

Villanova College Complaints Procedure Non-Compliance with Student Protection Processes

Villanova College Disputes and Complaints against members of the Villanova College Community Policy and Procedures

Villanova College Pastoral Care Policy

Villanova College Privacy Policy

Villanova College Statement of Commitment

Villanova College Student Protection Processes

Villanova College Student Protection Policy (Operational)

Villanova College Whistleblower Policy and Procedures

Villanova College Workplace Health and Safety Policy