



Star of the Sea School

Student Grievance Procedures

Introduction

“Catholic schools educate young people in all dimensions of life by developing the whole person”.
(SACCS Vision Statement)

Rationale

At Star of the Sea School we believe safety, a basic human right, is a pre-requisite for our school to be able to carry out our mission to educate.

Children have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times. The protection and safety of children is the responsibility of families and school together. At Star of the Sea we explicitly teach being safe and keeping yourself safe practices.

We base our policy on the Gospel values of freedom and justice for all and an underlying belief in their dignity and uniqueness.

Catholic schools operate in a wider community context where legal requirements exist and where they have an obligation to students.

Principles

The safety and well-being of the child is the paramount consideration in every situation.

- The dignity of the human person is fundamental to Catholic teaching.
- Children’s development is dependent on the quality of care provided by the significant adults in their lives.
- School is a place where children feel and are safe.

Procedure

As part of our school program we provide opportunities for children to develop and appreciate their uniqueness.

The Kid’s Council (SRC) enables children to have a voice in our school. The Kid’s Council meet to discuss issues that evolve through class meetings. As a council they look beyond themselves and our school and support children in need, through fund-raising and awareness raising events.

Seasons for Growth is a program run by trained staff to support children who have experienced loss, grief or change, eg death, divorce, separation or moving to a new state/country.

At Star of the Sea School the following programs take place at all year levels:

- Made in the Image of God (MITIOG)
- Child Protection Curriculum
- Drug Education
- Social & Emotional Learning (Health)



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These programs endeavour to educate the whole child, giving them information and strategies to support their own welfare while also teaching them about personal and interpersonal responsibility.

As people involved with children we realize our legal responsibilities as Mandated Reporters.

At Star of the Sea School children are explicitly taught:

- How to solve problems
- How to get help if needed to resolve problems
- Who people in their support networks could be
- How to differentiate between those problems that need help from an adult and those that can be resolved without adult intervention
- The difference between dobbing and reporting something that is serious, may cause harm or is illegal

Students who have a grievance/concern with a teacher or other staff member

If a student has a grievance or concern with a **teacher or** staff member, the following process should take place:

- Talk to the teacher or staff member involved and see if there can be a resolution
- Arrange a time to speak with the teacher or adult (adult can be a parent) who you believe can best assist with the resolution of the problem (with a support person, if necessary)
- If the problem is not resolved, look for other options
- If the problem is still not resolved, arrange a time to speak with the Principal, Deputy Principal or Student Counsellor (with a support person, if necessary)
- Expectation that all parties follow the agreed actions to achieve a resolution.

Agencies

The organisations listed below may be of assistance to children/families experiencing difficulties. Usually it is the family's responsibility to make contact with these agencies, but this can be done on the recommendation of School staff.

- ACCESS
- Child Protection Services
- Catholic Church
- Women's & Children's Hospital
- CAMHS
- CARL – Child Abuse Report Line – 131478
- Kids Helpline

Evaluation

This Policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the teaching staff.

Conclusion

At all times we promote models of behaviour based on respect and consideration of the child.

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Issues

