



04 August 2020

Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Catholic Education WA schools are Christ-centred and child-focused learning communities that support each child to develop to their full God-given potential. The key to this, is ensuring the learning environment is engaging, supportive and safe. All members of our school share the responsibility for creating and maintaining this healthy culture. By working together, we can ensure all children flourish in a safe and healthy environment.

Recognising that each child has the right to be heard is an important element in the CEWA Child Safe framework. At St Cecilia's we teach students that they have the right to be safe and we empower them with the language, skills, and strategies to assist in their safety by talking to people that they trust. It is a requirement that all students receive a protective behaviours and sexual abuse prevention education (10.6 Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools).

At St Cecilia's Catholic Primary school we are implementing the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC) which is an evidence-based child safety curriculum that teaches children to recognise abuse, tell a trusted adult, understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching and ways of keeping themselves safe. The KS:CPC fits primarily within the Health and Physical Education learning area of the Australian Curriculum but is also taught across multiple learning areas. The curriculum is based on two main themes:

- We all have the right to be safe.
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust.

The themes are presented through four Focus Areas:

- 1. The right to be safe**
- 2. Relationships**
- 3. Recognising & reporting abuse**
- 4. Protective strategies.**

This term all classes from PP to Year 6 will receive explicit teaching from all four Focus Areas, during their Health lessons.

Please note: All students will learn the correct anatomical names for all parts of the body, including breasts, vagina, vulva, penis, testicles, and bottom. We will reinforce that they are "in charge of their whole body" and no one has the right to touch them without their permission. Teaching children anatomically correct terms promotes positive body image, self-confidence, and parent-child communication; discourages perpetrators; and, in the event of abuse, helps children and adults navigate the disclosure and forensic interview process (National Sexual Violence Resource Centre, 2013). It makes communication clearer because they can tell someone and importantly, it communicates that the adults can hear about that part of the body from a child, and that it's not something embarrassing or shameful that you have to hide (American Academy of Paediatrics Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2013).

St Cecilia's relies on strong partnerships with you, as parents and carers, to provide your child with the best possible learning and development opportunities. Working together we can ensure all children and young people flourish in a safe and healthy environment. If you have any further questions about this information, or the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum in general, please speak with myself, your classroom teacher, or the Principal.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kristine Lee-Gowland
Health & Physical Education Teacher

Faith Family Friendship