



Child Safeguarding Program

Child Safeguarding Pastoral Care

Key Definition

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is the support given to students for their development as a person. It relates to the total care of students and involves tending to both the academic and non-academic needs of students including spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing.

St Mary's Echuca Pastoral Care Practices

St Mary's School, Echuca is committed to providing a safe, supportive and social environment, where students feel nurtured as they learn.

To this end, we have developed, and continue to develop, a comprehensive range of pastoral care policies and procedures that are designed to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students. These include:

- The school recognises the importance of friendships and peer support in helping children and young people feel safe and be less isolated. We actively support students to develop and sustain friendships through documented formal programs. These programs include:

Student Support Program

- We are committed to ensuring that information and procedures to enable and to respond to child safety concerns raised by students are age-appropriate, simple, and accessible for all students including students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students with disability, LGBTIQ+ students and other vulnerable students. For more information, refer to [Child Safeguarding Complaints Management](#).
- We openly display contact details for independent child advocacy and child helpline services throughout the school.
- The school delivers age-appropriate education to all students about:
 - healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality, sexual relationships and consent)
 - resilience and coping with adversity
 - child abuse awareness and a child's right to be safe
 - their right to make decisions about their body and their privacy
 - how they can raise concerns about safety, abuse or other harm
 - the fact that any concerns that they do raise will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately
 - our Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safeguarding Codes of Conduct, including our Student Code of Conduct and other standards of behaviour for students.
- We make information about these topics, as well as other child safety and wellbeing topics, available to all students through various age-appropriate pastoral care initiatives as well as communications such as newsletters and the school's intranet. We also incorporate child safety and wellbeing topics into the school's curriculum.

For more information refer to [Educating Students About Child Safety](#).