



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Mount Ridley P-12 College is firmly committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of its students. It recognises through its policies, practices and procedures the fundamental right of all children and adolescents to be respected, nurtured and safeguarded from any form of harm.

To maintain the highest standards, the College has established processes to ensure its policies, procedures and practices are aligned with the relevant legislative requirements, regularly monitored and frequently reviewed to maintain compliance with these requirements.

Through its policies, practices and procedures the College will support, encourage and enable staff, parents, carers and students to understand, identify, discuss and report any matters that relate to child safety.

In maintaining a child-safe environment, the College will work in partnership with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), the Department of Education and Training (DET), and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to improve child protection through the promotion and implementation of the Victorian compulsory minimum Child Safe Standards and other relevant legislative obligations emanating from recommendations associated with the:

- Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the handlings of Child Abuse by religious and other organisations which culminated in the report titled *Betrayal of Trust*.

Mandatory reporting is a legal requirement under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic) to protect children from harm relating to physical injury and sexual abuse and is non-negotiable in our school.

The College's Mandatory Reporting/Child Protection Policy provides staff with their specific responsibilities with respect to mandatory reporting and duty of care obligations.