

Saint Agatha's Primary School Safeguarding Plan 2026



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Our Safeguarding Commitment

As an agency of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, we have a zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Accessibility



Brisbane Catholic Education is committed to providing accessible services to people from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty understanding this document, you can contact Translating and Interpreting Service National on 13 14 50 to arrange for an interpreter to translate it for you.

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Attributions

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Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, Saint Agatha's primary school acknowledges the Turrbal and Yuggera people of the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years, and their descendants who maintain their spiritual connection and traditions.

We thank them for sharing their culture, spiritualities and ways of living with the land in this place we all now call our local community.

We pay respects to elders past, present and emerging.

As we learn, play and grow at St Agatha's may we continue to walk gently and respectfully together with each other.

As a Catholic education community, we commit to embedding cultural safety in our school so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and staff are seen, respected and affirmed, and so that no one experiences harm, exclusion or silence because of culture or identity.

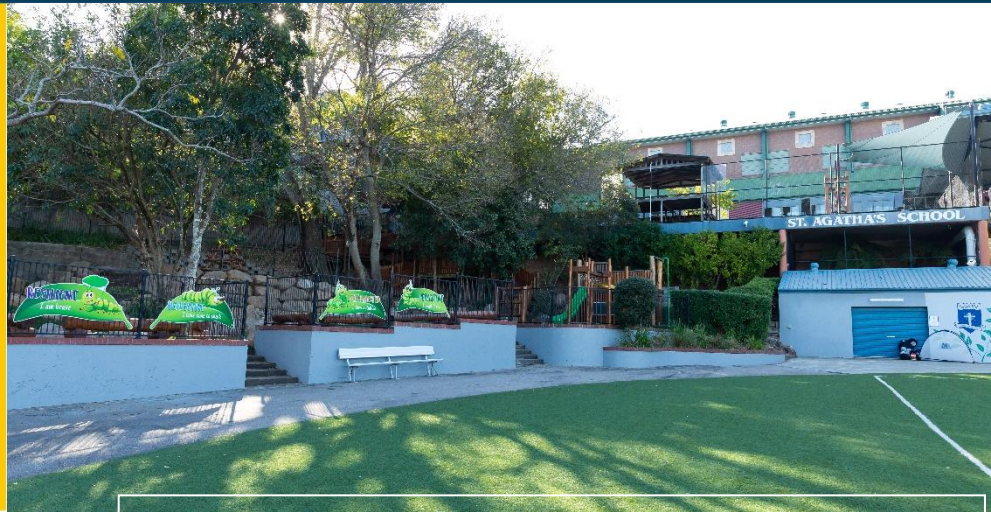
Cultural safety calls us to listen deeply, to reflect honestly on our histories, and to walk together in humility and courage. It asks us to ensure our classrooms, relationships, policies and practices uphold dignity, belonging and justice for all.

May we be one in land, one in Spirit, one in Faith, united in God's love, committed to justice, and faithful to the responsibility entrusted to us as educators of this land.

Introduction

Because wherever a child or vulnerable person is safe, there you serve and honour Christ.

Pope Francis written address to the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors' plenary assembly in Rome March 24-28, 2025.



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Saint Agatha's Primary School, Clayfield, is committed to creating environments where children and young people feel protected, valued, and heard. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and every child has the right to grow and thrive free from harm.

We are guided by our Christian Catholic Tradition and the teachings of Jesus Christ who advocated for the protection of children and the marginalised. Our mission to teach, challenge and transform through our educational endeavours is actioned by Catholic Social Teaching, as part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

The Queensland Government recently introduced new Child Safe Standards. These Standards clearly outline what child safe organisations must do to create environments where children are protected, respected and able to speak up. They focus on building safe, welcoming cultures, hearing and valuing children's voices, working closely with families, celebrating diversity, making sure the right people work with children, responding quickly to concerns, and always looking for ways to improve safety.

Throughout 2026, our school will review its compliance against the new Child Safe Standards using a phased approach in line with Queensland Family and Child Commission guidelines. We will review, self-assess and report against selected Standards each term, building towards full implementation and continuous improvement across all Standards by the end of the year. This staged process allows Saint Agatha's Primary School to embed the Standards meaningfully and ensure our practices reflect the needs, voices and safety of our students.

As a Catholic school within the Archdiocese of Brisbane, we honour the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Commitment and uphold the values of Catholic education in our safeguarding practices.

This School Safeguarding Plan is developed in consultation with students, families, and employees, and is contextualised to our local school environment. It reflects our commitment to continuous improvement, cultural safety, and child-centred practice, and is supported by both Brisbane Catholic Education policies and procedures and school-specific safeguarding actions. Further Information about BCE wide practices can be accessed [here](#).

For more information or to request accessible formats, please contact the school Principal.

The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

The Child Safe Standards



Standard 1: Leadership and Culture

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in the entity's organisational leadership, governance, and culture.



Standard 2: Voice of children

Children are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.



Standard 3: Family and community

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.



Standard 4: Equity and diversity

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.



Standard 5: People

People working with children are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.



Standard 6: Complaints management

Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child-focused.



Standard 7: Knowledge and skills

Staff and volunteers of the entity are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through ongoing education and training.



Standard 8: Physical and online environments

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing and minimise the opportunity for children to be harmed.



Standard 9: Continuous improvement

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.



Standard 10: Policies and procedures

Policies and procedures document how the entity is safe for children.



Universal Principle

Requires child safe entities to provide an environment that promotes and upholds the right to cultural safety.

Safeguarding Focus Areas

The 10 standards are grouped under four key focus areas:



The Universal Principle

Ensuring cultural safety through the Universal Principle is essential for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families.



While the Principle intentionally focuses on First Nations children, the cultural safety indicators which make up the Principle are designed to adopt a proactive and comprehensive approach to safeguarding, ensuring that policies, and practices are inclusive for all children, particularly those who may be marginalised or vulnerable. The Universal Principle is embedded within all 10 Standards.

Cultural Safety Indicators

- 1 Transformational unlearning** – Organisations must challenge unconscious bias, racism, and discrimination within their structures and workforce.
- 2 Negotiating values, motivations, and paradigm** – Policies and programs should be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to reflect their perspectives on child safety.
- 3 Prioritising social and emotional wellbeing and health** – A holistic, strengths-based approach must be adopted to support the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, staff, and families.
- 4 Sharing power and decision-making** – Decision-making processes should be led or co-led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure genuine partnerships.
- 5 Sharing resources** – Organisations should dedicate resources to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led initiatives, research, and governance mechanisms, where appropriate.
- 6 Creating a strategic enabling environment** – Leadership must set clear priorities and accountability structures ensure cultural safety into daily operations.
- 7 Operating on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander terms of reference** – Service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should be grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems and self-determination principles.
- 8 Accountability and continuous quality improvement** – Progress should be measured using Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-defined success indicators, ensuring sustained improvement.

The Cultural Capability Framework

This framework enables Brisbane Catholic Education to develop a workforce grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural humility, enabling responsive and innovative practices that contribute to Reconciliation. The Cultural Capability Framework and Molum Sabe assists our workforce to critically reflect on individual and organisational practices and develop effective practices across four cultural standards:



Teaching

Culturally responsive teachers and education professionals create the conditions for respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and learning of knowledges, identities, cultures and languages.



Relationships

We develop relationships and connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, students, families and communities to build and sustain inclusive and culturally safe practices and environments.



Environment

We establish an inclusive and culturally safe environment, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, students, families and communities feel a sense of belonging and connection.



Leadership

All employees are accountable for building and sustaining inclusive and culturally safe practices and environments with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, students, families, and communities. Leaders have additional responsibilities to articulate a clear vision and provide ongoing cultural capability development opportunities for employees.

Standard 1: Leadership and Culture

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in the entity's organisational leadership, governance, and culture¹



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 1

At BCE, student safety is central to how we plan, think and act, shaping a safeguarding culture that protects their safety and wellbeing. We use a whole of organisation approach; led by strong leadership, embedded in practice and supported through shared responsibility. Clear policies, codes of conduct, Student Protection Processes and risk management plans set behavioural expectations and guide how we keep children safe. Our Safeguarding Policy aligns with the Archdiocese of Brisbane Safeguarding Framework and is available on our website. Leaders are accountable for ensuring these requirements are followed and continually improved. Safeguarding is a system critical foundation of the BCE Strategic Plan 2025–2027 and an identified enterprise risk, monitored through regular monitoring, internal audits and escalation pathways. Governance transparency is reinforced through quarterly reporting to the BCE Executive Team, Safeguarding Committee and Catholic Education Council, including assessments of practice effectiveness and improvement progress. We take a strong stand against discrimination, bias or harm toward any child and are committed to cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

What Standard 1 looks like at our school:

At St Agatha's Primary School, Clayfield, we are committed to prioritising every student's safety and wellbeing. This safeguarding culture is explicitly embedded across school life and grounded in our Catholic identity, ensuring all children, families and community members are welcomed, respected and included.

Leadership promotes a visible and consistent child safe culture. The Principal and Leadership Team are active across the school, reinforcing key safety messages in classrooms, playgrounds and assemblies through clear expectations and age-appropriate discussions about safety and wellbeing. Every Week 7, our P & F support and lead Wellbeing Week, which is a great chance to proactively support safety and wellbeing. Students regularly make an appointment with the Principal if they have an idea they wish to facilitate during Wellbeing Week.

Safeguarding is strengthened through clear leadership oversight and governance. Student safety and wellbeing are standing agenda items at fortnightly Student Support Team and Student Protection Contact (SPC) meetings, supporting ongoing monitoring and responsive action.

The school maintains a visible safeguarding environment. The Archdiocese of Brisbane Safeguarding Commitment is displayed in the foyer, and Student Protection Contact (SPC) posters are placed in every classroom and learning space to remind students where they can seek support.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility across the school community. Staff uphold the Code of Conduct, volunteers follow required training and compliance expectations, and students learn about safe adult behaviour through explicit teaching, including through reading of big books such as, *"Adults Have Rules Too"*. All parents sign in when attending St Agatha's assemblies.

St Agatha's demonstrates a strong commitment to equity, inclusion and cultural safety. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, artwork and Acknowledgement of Country signage affirm respect for First Nations cultures and support the safety and wellbeing of First Nations students and families.

Through these practices, policies and procedures, St Agatha's ensures safeguarding is visible, understood and embedded in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every child.

¹ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standard (NCSS): Standard 1: Committed Leadership Governance and Culture | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld), Schedule 1, Section 2(1), (2)(a) and (2)(b) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s 6 (1), (2) and s9 (e)

Standard 2: Voice of children

Children are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously²



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 2

We strive to create a culture where every child feels safe, heard and confident to share their ideas or concerns. Our employees and volunteers are supported to engage respectfully with students, listen carefully, and respond to their immediate needs. BCE's school safeguarding storybooks and animation series help explain our policies, processes and key safeguarding concepts to students in age appropriate ways. We also support schools to deliver Consent and Respectful Relationships Education so students understand their rights, identify trusted adults, and build positive, healthy and respectful relationships. Each year, students across all BCE schools are invited to share their views through the *Tell Them From Me* survey. This feedback helps us understand how students are feeling, their concerns and how we can strengthen safety and support in our schools. Our Student Voice Program gives students a platform to contribute to BCE wide decisions affecting their safety, wellbeing and learning. Our Archdiocesan First Nations Student Representative Council and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Team help co-design culturally safe policies and practices.

What Standard 2 looks like at our school:

At St Agatha's Primary School, student voice is embedded in both safeguarding and everyday school life. Students are provided with regular opportunities to learn about their rights, participate in decisions that affect them build positive relationships and access trusted adults when they need support. This is demonstrated through the following practices and processes:

- Students from Prep to Year 6 participate in age-appropriate teaching about consent, respectful relationships, protective behaviours and help-seeking through explicit teaching of the Version 9 Australian Health Curriculum. These concepts are reinforced through the Get Grit Program, PB4L lessons and other opportunities such as 'Bullying No Way Week', 'Day for Daniel' and 'National Child Protection Week'.
- Teachers use safeguarding storybooks and explicit classroom discussions to ensure that child safety messages are understandable and accessible for all age groups.
- Students in Year 4-6 provide student voice through the Tell Them From Me survey, providing feedback about their experiences at school and informing future planning and improvement.
- Student voice is incorporated into Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs), giving students the opportunity to identify what is working well for them and contribute to setting their own goals and next steps.
- Students in Prep to Year 6 may come to the front office to 'book a meeting' with the Principal or member of the Leadership Team which drives initiatives such as Wellbeing Week and student-led activities that enhance school life.
- Through Get Grit lessons and explicit teaching of Being Safe, Respectful and Responsible, students learn to manage and strengthen friendships, navigate conflict and seek help when needed. Restorative conversations support this process, ensuring that students have opportunities to express their views, repair relationships and contribute to solutions.
- All adults, including volunteers, are attune to safeguarding and not only model appropriate and respectful relationships but participate in decision making and support children to raise their concerns.

St Agatha's is committed to recognising diversity amongst student voice and through our ongoing work with Reconciliation Action Planning and cultural understanding of staff, we are committed to continuous improvement in this area.

² Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 2 Children and Adults Are Safe, Informed and Participate | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2(8) (a) (ii) | Education (Accreditation of Non-state schools) Regulation (Qld) 2017 s 16(4) (a)-(b)

Standard 3: Family and community

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing³



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 3

Student safety, wellbeing and learning are best supported when families and schools work together and share responsibility for protecting students. At BCE, we believe informed and engaged families and communities are essential to creating safe learning environments. We support schools to partner with families in ways that are consistent, respectful, culturally safe and shaped by local needs. We also make sure families and community members have clear, accessible information about our safeguarding approach and how to raise concerns. Each year, parents and caregivers share their perspectives through the *Tell Them From Me* Parent Survey. This feedback helps BCE understand family experiences and concerns, guiding improvements that make our schools safer and more supportive for students.

What Standard 3 looks like at our school:

St Agatha's Primary School recognises that 'it takes a village' and safeguarding is a shared responsibility between school, families and the wider community. Through both informal and formal opportunities, the school actively engages families in decision-making, communicates its approach to child safety and provides opportunities for participation.

- There is strong participation and representation on both the P & F and School Board, which provide opportunities for families to contribute to governance, planning and school improvement.
- The school consults with parents, staff, students and the Board when reviewing policies and procedures to ensure that they remain relevant, contemporary and responsive to community needs.
- The P & F led and liaise with the school around Wellbeing Week, which is held every Week 7 of each term to support participation in safety and wellbeing initiatives.
- Parent voice is gathered through surveys, informal conversations, the complaints management processes as well as the Tell Them From Me survey.

St Agatha's shares safeguarding expectations to families to ensure that it is visible, accessible and routinely communicated.

- The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Commitment is prominently displayed in the school foyer, reinforcing the school's commitment to child safety.
- Policies and procedures are readily available through BCE Connect
- During Parent Information Evenings and at school events and assemblies, safeguarding messages are embedded into practical communications. For example, at the Athletics Carnival all guardians were reminded of the media consent policy and student safety expectations.
- Student safety and wellbeing information is regularly communicated through the school newsletter, including attendance, conduct, wellbeing initiatives and policy updates.

It is through these examples that St Agatha's partners with families to support holistic student wellbeing, provide avenues for feedback to guide improvements. Through consultation, open communication, active governance structures and regular opportunities for family engagement, St Agatha's promotes a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. There is an opportunity to further enhance communications around the Health curriculum and strengthen parent access to consent and respectful relationships resources and tools.

³ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 3 Partnering With Families Carers And Communities | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2(8) (a) (ii) | Education (Accreditation of Non-state schools) Regulation (Qld) 2017 s 16(4) (a)-(b)

Standard 4: Equity and diversity

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice⁴



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 4

Every student deserves to flourish and has the right to learn in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment, free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. BCE supports all students, regardless of background, identity or ability, to access and fully participate in their learning. We embed equity at the heart of our culture through the Student Diversity and Inclusion Policy, the Student Wellbeing Policy and the Queensland Catholic Education Council's Inclusive Practice in Catholic Schools. We expect school practices to reflect each child's circumstances and needs, and to prioritise culturally safe, trauma informed approaches in planning, communication and engagement. The Engage Student Support System and the Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) help schools provide a student centred, comprehensive continuum of support. These systems enable collaborative, targeted and personalised assistance for diverse learners. We also provide children with opportunities to learn about different cultures, people and communities through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures Cross Curriculum Priority and the Australian Curriculum.

What Standard 4 looks like at our school:

At St Agatha's, we believe that every child has the right to feel safe, included, respected and valued for who they are. Grounded in Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching, we strive to create a learning community where diversity is celebrated, equity is actively promoted and every child experiences a strong sense of belonging on their learning journey. Nano Nagle believed that education should be available to those who were poor, marginalised and excluded from society in her day. We are privileged to continue the work of the Presentation Sisters who founded St Agatha's with the conviction that every person has inherent dignity and deserve opportunities to flourish regardless of circumstance. We recognise that children have different strengths, needs, identities and life experiences and are committed to removing barriers to participation through culturally safe, inclusive and responsive practices.

Led by the Student Support Team, including the Guidance Counsellor, all staff have undertaken professional development in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to ensure that Tier 1 teaching is effective in the classroom. Diverse learners are supported through reasonable adjustments that are planned and reviewed in partnership with families. Social emotional supports are implemented to meet identified student needs, including targeted wellbeing supports and student led initiatives such as the 'Chill Out Room'. The Student Support Team meets regularly to review student wellbeing, behaviour and learning data to identify students who may require additional support and monitor the progress of all learners. Children have access to age-appropriate resources to ensure that safeguarding information is accessible and understandable to all students.

Staff are furthering their cultural competence and providing children with opportunities to learn different cultures, peoples and communities through embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures across the curriculum. As St Agatha's renews its commitment to Reconciliation Action Planning, it is our hope to strengthen diverse voices in policy and procedure, ensuring that all are heard, respected and represented.

⁴ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 4 Equity Is Promoted And Diversity Is Respected | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2(3) (a) (ii) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s 11, s 15 (a)

Standard 5: People

People working with children are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice⁵



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 5

BCE supports schools to ensure that everyone working or volunteering with students is suitable, safe and capable of upholding child safety and wellbeing. Our recruitment and screening processes embed safeguarding at every stage, from role design and advertising through to interviews, reference checks, onboarding and performance development. The Employee and Volunteer Screening Procedure includes a role risk matrix, Blue Card screening requirements and clearly defined responsibilities. These help leaders identify potential risks to student safety and wellbeing and respond appropriately. BCE's Human Resource Information System, Ignite, operationalises these procedures and helps employees monitor and maintain their safeguarding screening requirements. Our Procurement Procedure requires all external providers engaging with BCE offices or schools to be child safe and compliant with relevant legislation. The Risk Management Framework guides how we monitor safeguarding practices in schools through established quality control mechanisms. These processes ensure schools can safely engage employees, volunteers and third parties, with appropriate oversight, training and supervision in place before any child related work occurs.

What Standard 5 looks like at our school:

In line with our implementation plan, at the end of Term 4 we will explain:

- How we screen and onboard employees, volunteers and third parties
- How we ensure safe supervision and conduct
- How we apply BCE recruitment and HR procedures for employees and volunteers
- How we track and keep safeguarding screening requirements current
- Evidence of practice and planned improvements

⁵ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 5 Robust Human Resource Management | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2(8)(b) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s 15 (b)

Standard 6: Complaints management

Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused⁶



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 6

BCE fosters a culture where concerns about safety and wellbeing can be raised openly, respectfully and without fear. We support child focused complaint pathways that are accessible to students, families, employees and community members. Our policies and procedures outline reporting requirements, cooperation with authorities, and expectations for timely and safe responses to concerns. From 1 July 2026, BCE will implement Queensland's Reportable Conduct Scheme. This means BCE will report any reportable allegation or conviction, conduct investigations, provide interim and final reports to the Queensland Family and Child Commission, and immediately notify police of any suspected criminal conduct within required timeframes. BCE provides guidance and training to ensure complaints are handled in trauma informed and culturally safe ways, supported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation Officers and expertise from safeguarding, student protection, legal, wellbeing, school operations and program teams, and employee relations and investigations teams. System wide improvements are strengthening complaint handling processes, creating clearer pathways and embedding safeguarding expertise across the framework. These structures help schools respond to concerns with transparency, sensitivity and procedural fairness.

What Standard 6 looks like at our school:

In line with our implementation plan, at the end of Term 3 we will explain:

- How students and families can raise concerns
- How the school ensures child-focused, trauma-informed responses
- How complaints are recorded, managed and escalated and resolved
- How the school implements the Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Evidence of practice and planned improvements

⁶ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 6 Effective Complaints Management | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2 (4) (b) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s7 | Child Safe Organisations Act (Qld) Chapter 3

Standard 7: Knowledge and skills

Staff and volunteers of the entity are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through ongoing education and training⁷



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 7

BCE builds a confident, capable and culturally aware workforce committed to children's safety and wellbeing. Our Mandatory Safeguarding Training Framework sets clear onboarding and refresher requirements for all employees. Every year, BCE employees complete online student protection training covering indicators of child harm, grooming behaviours, how to respond to disclosures and mandatory reporting requirements. School staff also participate in additional face to face training each term on topics related to student safety and wellbeing. Staff who serve as Student Protection Contacts (SPCs) receive advanced training in managing disclosures and supporting colleagues to keep students safe. Volunteers and third party providers complete mandatory safeguarding onboarding before commencing any child related work, along with annual refreshers recorded in school registers in line with the Volunteer Policy and Procedure and Third Party Safeguarding Guidelines. BCE has developed a Cultural Learning Plan and Cultural Capability Framework to strengthen cultural competency and responsiveness, promote cultural safety and BCE's Ngutana-Lui Centre provides curriculum-aligned cultural learning for students and staff. All employee training is tracked through BCE's Learning Management System (iLearn), which issues automated reminders and provides compliance reports to managers.

What Standard 7 looks like at our school:

In line with our implementation plan, at the end of Term 4 we will explain:

- How employees, volunteers and third parties complete required safeguarding training
- How the school reinforces safeguarding practice throughout the year
- How cultural capability is embedded in training
- How the school monitors and supports employees and volunteers to undertake mandatory training
- Evidence of practice and planned improvements

⁷ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 7 Ongoing Education and Training | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2(8)(b) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s16, 4 (c)

Standard 8: Physical and online environments

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing and minimise the opportunity for children to be harmed⁸



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 8

BCE is committed to creating healthy, safe and productive physical and online environments that support student wellbeing, prevent harm and safeguard everyone involved in our activities. We take a holistic, strengths-based approach that recognises all dimensions of a child's wellbeing – physical, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural. Building plans are reviewed with a focus on environmental risks that may affect children's safety. The BCE Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Policy and BCE Safeguarding Guidelines for School Design provide practical guidance to build safe, inclusive spaces with strong visibility, supervision and access control. To support online safety, BCE aligns with the eSafety Commissioner's Best Practice Framework and delivers the Australian Curriculum for Online Safety (P-10). The Acceptable Use of Devices and Digital Resources agreement promotes safe digital behaviour and is supported by content filters and monitoring tools. Policies such as the Employee Code of Conduct, IT Acceptable Use Policy and Privacy Policy outline expectations for safe online behaviour. BCE provides guidance to help schools maintain safe digital environments, and student safety considerations are embedded in risk assessments, school risk registers and organisation wide risk management processes.

What Standard 8 looks like at our school:

In line with our implementation plan, at the end of Term 3 we will explain:

- How physical spaces are designed and supervised for safety
- How the school promotes online safety for students
- How employees' model safe digital behaviours
- How both physical or online environmental risks are assessed and managed
- Evidence of practice and planned improvements

⁸ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 8 Safe Physical And Online Environments | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s 18 (1) s19

Standard 9: Continuous improvement

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved⁹



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 9

BCE is committed to continual review, learning and strengthening of safeguarding practice across both system and school levels. Ongoing improvement ensures our policies, frameworks and practices evolve in response to emerging issues, data and feedback, and remain effective in preventing harm and promoting wellbeing. System wide reviews are carried out by the Assurance Team, Risk and Compliance Team and through school accreditation processes. These reviews assess the effectiveness of safeguarding measures and identify opportunities to strengthen practice. Critical incidents also trigger structured post incident reviews to identify risks, evaluate responses and enhance wellbeing supports for students and employees. Governance committees, including Safeguarding, Risk and Assurance, and People and Safety, monitor trends and support system wide improvements. Schools are supported to monitor their own safeguarding indicators, such as Blue Card compliance, attendance, bullying and wellbeing data, enabling a local cycle of review, reflection and continuous improvement.

What Standard 9 looks like at our school:

At St Agatha's, we are committed to lifelong learning to continually strengthen the way in which we respond to student protection matters and the ongoing improvement of our policies, practices and frameworks. Every term, all staff engage in professional development relating to child safety to ensure that safeguarding is at the forefront of every employee's work.

The Student Support Team, including our Guidance Counsellor, regularly review and monitor data trends relating to student wellbeing or behaviour, seeking proactive, evidence informed and restorative solutions. In Term One, 2026, this led to the restructuring of the playground roster and opening of the 'Chill Out' room for students.

As a Student Protection Team, we confidentially reflect on scenarios to ensure processes remain practical, current and responsive. Across 2026, St Agatha's will undertake a comprehensive and progressive review of all aspects of student safety and wellbeing as we self-assess against all ten Child Safe Standards (including the Universal Principle). Findings will be documented and inform ongoing actions.

We regularly provide student safety and wellbeing reminders through our weekly newsletter, including regarding attendance, conduct and any policy or procedure updates. Through our weekly 'What's Happening' staff are informed of any upcoming events or emerging issues.

St Agatha's seeks feedback through both formal and informal measures to continue to adapt and improve. This includes the annual Tell Them From Me Survey as well as the Complaints Management Procedure for Students and Guardians. Any feedback is documented through Engage, the student management system.

Each event, be it an incursion, excursion or P & F run event involves a thorough risk assessment process where student safeguarding is at the forefront of decision making. Any playground or other incidents can trigger post incident reviews to reflect on the factors involved and identify any areas of improvement. The Workplace Health and Safety Committee meets each term to review any incidents as well as plan for practice situations (e.g. lockdowns and evacuations).

⁹ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Standard 9 Continuous Improvement | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) sch 1 s 2(6)(a) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld) s20

Standard 10: Policy and procedures

Policies and procedures document how the entity is safe for children¹⁰



Brisbane Catholic Education's commitment to Standard 10

The Archdiocese of Brisbane Safeguarding Framework guides safeguarding practice across all Catholic entities, including BCE. The BCE Safeguarding Policy sits within this framework and is supported by a range of policies, procedures and guidelines designed to protect student safety and wellbeing. Under the BCE Policy Governance Framework, all policies are reviewed at least every three years through consultation, governance checks and formal approval. This ensures they remain current, reflect best practice and continue to support student safety, wellbeing and cultural safety. Consultation ensures policies reflect lived experience and meet the diverse needs of school communities. BCE is also working to make policies easier to understand and use, including creating child friendly resources. Policies and procedures are accessible to students, families, volunteers and third parties through BCE and school websites, and are available internally to employees through Spire. Safeguarding responsibilities are embedded in the BCE Leadership Capability Framework, ensuring leaders consistently communicate, model and apply policy requirements.

What Standard 10 looks like at our school:

At St Agatha's, we use Brisbane Catholic Education's policies and procedures to inform school based documents. These are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that they address the requirements of the Child Safe Standards and the Universal Principle and include clear procedures for safeguarding children. When updating policies and procedures, we seek input from key stakeholders, including the School Board, parents, staff and students. In 2026, we are implementing a schedule to ensure that all policies are reviewed at least every three years to ensure relevance and that they continue to champion student safety, wellbeing and cultural safety.

All Staff complete annual safeguarding training that includes scenario-based learning. Student protection refreshers are undertaken each term and Student Protection Contacts (SPCs) participate in additional training to support them in their role. We use BCE's Safeguarding Storybook series to communicate safeguarding messages and policies to our students in a child-friendly, age appropriate way. At the start of each term, staff remind students through the '5 safety people' activity, who trusted adults in their lives could be, including the school-based Student Protection Contacts (SPCs).

To help families understand volunteer and safeguarding requirements, we unpack processes and procedures at Parent Information Evenings and remind all stakeholders at assemblies.

Policies and procedures are available to employees through the internal school Portal, the public through St Agatha's website and to parents and guardians through BCE Connect.

¹⁰ Alignment with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS): Standard 10 Policies And Procedures Support The Safety Of Children And Adults | Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld) s 2 (3-6) | Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld)

