
CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

The abuse of a child is an offence under the NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. Holy Saviour School is a mandatory reporter. This means that we must comply with the requirements of the *NSW Law About Child Protection*. Principals, teachers, and school counsellors must report to DoCS when they have reason to suspect risk of significant harm to children or young people in the workplace. It is an offence for these people not to comply with their legal duties under the Act.

DEFINITIONS

Risk of significant Harm: is something that is sufficiently serious to warrant a statutory authority to take action. It is not minor and could be an act of omission or cumulative acts.

Risk: means likelihood

Harm: means physical, psychological or emotional harm or self harm

WHAT THIS MEANS TO EMPLOYEES

Any person who is to be paid by our school in child-related employment must undertake a pre-employment screening process.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO VOLUNTEERS

- Child Protection legislation **requires** that all those who undertake volunteer tasks on behalf of the school, where those tasks may involve unsupervised contact with students, must complete and sign a *Volunteer/Student Declaration form*.
- This means that the volunteer must not be a prohibited person

Click on link to view and/or complete form:
<https://check.kids.nsw.gov.au/volunteer-declaration.php>

WHAT FORMS OF SUSPECTED 'RISK OF HARM' MUST BE REPORTED TO DOCS?

There are four categories of abuse that form the grounds for suspected 'risk of significant harm':

- **Sexual abuse** is any sexual act or sexual threat imposed on a child. It refers to the involvement of children in sexual acts including assault.
- **Physical abuse** is non-accidental injury to a child. It includes injuries which are caused by excessive discipline, hostile acts, pushing, shoving, severe beatings or shakings. Actual physical harm does not have to occur for an assault to have occurred.
- **Emotional abuse** comprises a range of behaviours which harm a child. These include making continual, excessive and unreasonable demands, excessive criticism, and severe and constant verbal abuse and rejection. This kind of abuse can be evidenced by psychological harm such as vomiting, bedwetting, anxiety and extreme attention seeking.
- **Neglect** occurs where a child is harmed by failure to provide basic physical and emotional necessities such as shelter, food, clothing, emotional security, medical care and adequate supervision.

WHAT IS MEANT BY HAVING 'REASONABLE GROUNDS' TO SUSPECT?

Because notification is a serious action, the law states that the person reporting the matter must have reasonable grounds for making the report. A suspicion in this context means that the reporter has reasonable cause to believe or suspect that 'risk of significant harm' has or is likely to occur. It is not necessary for the person making the report to provide proof that the abuse actually happened. However, there must be some factual basis for the suspicion.

HELPFUL CONTACTS RELEVANT TO THE INFORMATION IN THIS PAMPHLET

Commission for Children and Young People- Website:
www.kids.nsw.gov.au

Community Services - Website: www.community.nsw.gov.au

NSW Ombudsman- Website: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

NSW Police- Website: www.police.nsw.gov.au