



COMMITMENT STATEMENT to Child Safety

July 2022

A safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people in Catholic schools

This Statement is intended to provide the central focus for child safety across Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd), built around a unified understanding of the moral imperative and overarching commitments that underpin the drive for improvement and cultural change.

The Catholic school sets out to be a school for the human person and of human persons. 'The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school'. (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, n.9).

CES Ltd holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

CES Ltd commits to providing a safe environment and nurturing culture for all children and young people in CES Ltd schools through:

1. Upholding the primacy of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people

At all times, the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, children who are unable to live at home, international students, and students of diverse sexuality.

To create and maintain a safe environment and nurturing culture, CES Ltd will actively and continually develop and review all policies, processes and practices, informed and responsive to legislation and evidence.

2. Empowering families, children, young people and staff to have a voice and raise concerns

CES Ltd, in partnership with schools, families and communities, will ensure children and young people are engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety.

This means that the views of the CES Ltd community which includes staff, volunteers, children and young people, and families are taken seriously, and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner. Children and young people are also provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing.

3. Implementing rigorous risk-management and employment practices

CES Ltd schools and staff will systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate or reduce all potential sources of harm. Effective risk management will be embedded in school life through transparent and well-understood policies, procedures and practices.

CES Ltd and its schools will employ highly competent and professional staff who are informed and challenged to maintain the safety of all students. The high quality of staff appointments will be upheld through rigorous employment and staff review processes and practices.

CES Ltd will meet its legislative duties to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in their care, including the Victorian Child Safe Standards, mandatory reporting, grooming, failure to disclose and failure to protect, and reportable conduct.