Dear Parents and Carers,

Child Safety

At Caroline Chisholm Catholic College we are committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of our students and see this as a central and fundamental responsibility of our college.

In July 2021, the Victorian Government announced new **Child Safe Standards** (CSS) to further strengthen child safe environments and protect children from abuse. The new CSS come into effect on Friday 1 July 2022. From 1 July 2022, 11 new Victorian Child Safe Standards will replace Victoria’s seven current Child Safe Standards and principles in place since 2016.

*The following principles underpin our commitment to child safety at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College:*

• All students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety, and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

• Our college works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on child safety and protection.

• All students have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety, in partnership with their parents, guardians and carers.

• All adults in our school, including teaching and non-teaching staff, clergy, volunteers, and contractors, have a responsibility to care for children and young people, to positively promote their wellbeing and to protect them from any kind of harm or abuse.

• The policies, guidelines, and codes of conduct for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are based on honest, respectful, and trusting relationships between adults and children and young people.

• Policies and practices demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements and cooperation with the Church, governments, the police, and human services agencies.

• All persons involved in situations where harm is suspected or disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity, and respect.

• Staff, clergy, volunteers, contractors, parents, and students should feel free to raise concerns about child safety, knowing these will be taken seriously by college leadership.

• Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed, either legally or pastorally.

As part of our policies and procedures the College has a Child Safety Advisory Group which includes both student and staff representation.

This group meets regularly throughout the year. The College also has 5 nominated child safety officers who are:

Ms Stephanie Banks, Deputy Principal (Student Wellbeing)

Ms Molly Coyne, Director of Campus (Sacred Heart)

Mr Tony Muller, Director of Campus (St John’s)

Ms Bianca Markovic, Director of Campus (Christ the King)

Ms Candice Boonjua, Student Counsellor

Parents and carers who wish to access more information regarding child safety at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College are welcome to visit the College website.

Democratic Principles and Values for Education

Additionally, at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College we recognise that the school plays a vital role in advancing democratic ideals and principles. For democracy to continue to thrive, children must be taught democratic ideals and principles and to value its way of life. Caroline Chisholm Catholic College will explicitly and implicitly support and promote the principles of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

• elected government

• the rule of law

• equal rights for all before the law

• freedom of religion

• freedom of speech and association

• the values of openness and tolerance.

At Caroline Chisholm Catholic College we are committed to the Values for Australian Schooling which include:

• Care and Compassion - Caring for self and others.

• Doing Your Best - Seeking to accomplish something worthy and admirable, trying hard, pursuing excellence.

• Fair Go - Pursuing and protecting the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.

• Freedom - Enjoying all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control and standing up for the rights of others.

• Honesty and Trustworthiness - Being honest, sincere, and seeking the truth.

• Integrity - Acting in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, ensuring consistency between words and deeds.

• Respect - Treating others with consideration and regard, respecting another person’s point of view.

• Responsibility - Being accountable for one’s own actions, resolving differences in constructive, non-violent, and peaceful ways, contributing to society and to civic life, taking care of the environment.

• Understanding, Tolerance, and Inclusion - Being aware of others and their cultures, accepting diversity within a democratic society, being included, and including others.

Stephanie Banks Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing