



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

RATIONALE

Burrabadine Cornerstone Christian School endeavours to ensure that the school is a safe environment where children are free of the risk of any form of abuse, or any other danger, by:

- Taking necessary precautions to minimise harm;
- Ensuring safety networks are in place
- Responding to indications or report of harm, abuse or danger to children;
- And acting in accordance with the legal obligations of all schools.

Children are a precious gift from God. They are made in His image with the ability to relate, think, create, feel, plan and choose. They are valuable in God's sight and worthy of the highest respect. All adults have a responsibility to care for children and to protect them from any kind of abuse or neglect. The School is responsible to provide a safe environment for children and to provide an education which fosters their health, developmental needs, spirituality, self respect and dignity. We are entrusted by parents with the care of their children, who are precious in the sight of God.

Child Protection is part of the outworking of the Great Commandment to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself'. (Luke 10:27)

In the context of BCCS, this love seeks to nurture and protect all people: with special regard to the children and young people placed into the School's care by parents and guardians; but also fostering the welfare of staff, volunteers and visitors to the School, the families and friends that form the community of the School, and the greater community. The education of students within BCCS aims to protect them from harm, and to train them to live according to the principles of God's love in their future careers, families and communities.

Love honours each person as precious to God and desires their well-being in all ways. Therefore the School's procedures seek to embody patience and kindness, honouring and serving others without prejudice or partiality. 'Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

BCCS honours the authority that God has given to the government of our nation, and upholds the laws of the land for the protection of children and young people, and the systems for the implementation of those laws. The School's procedures in respect to these laws will be followed with compassion, sensitivity and humility towards all persons involved, as 'love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.' (Romans 13:10).

This policy provides the requirements in relation to Child protection at Burrabadine Cornerstone Christian School. It relates to suspected or reported cases of abuse against students by staff, parents, other students, or by other persons outside the school and any allegations of reportable conduct. Such abuse can also constitute sexual harassment. Therefore, this policy is to be read in conjunction with the Sexual Harassment Policy of Burrabadine Cornerstone Christian School.

(Full policy can be requested from the school office.)