



## TRINITY COLLEGE

Number :	
Title :	<b>Child Protection</b>
Effective Date :	30 June 2004
Approved Date :	25 November 2010
Supercedes :	30 March 2007
Reviewed:	25 November 2010

### **THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLEGE.**

1. Trinity College is an Anglican College of excellence, open to all in a disciplined, caring and Christian environment.
2. Aims of the College  
The constitution of the College states that we seek to provide a Christian and liberal education. The College seeks:-
  - To foster in every student a desire to serve God and man; to develop respect for truth and a lasting set of moral values. To acquire the greatest possible understanding of self and the work of each individual's contribution to society.
  - To develop fully the spiritual, social, academic and physical potential of each student in a caring yet disciplined environment.
  - To foster a co-operative relationship between all members of the College family - parents, staff and students.
  - To acquire to the fullest extent possible, the mastery of basic academic skills and to foster creativity and overall excellence.
  - To provide a curriculum which has a balanced use of Christian themes in all areas.
  - To help each student appreciate the joy of living.

### **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Children at Trinity College have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times. They are vulnerable to exploitation and victimization by those who are more in positions of power (e.g. adults). Their development is dependent on the quality of care provided by the significant adults in their lives.
2. Trinity College operates in a wider community context where legal requirements exist and where it has an obligation to:
  - a. protect children
  - b. provide a secure, safe environment where children can be safe and feel safe
  - c. intervene and advocate on behalf of children

- d. actively work towards empowering children
  - e. ensure the principles of care, protection and safety are implemented
  - f. work co-operatively with Government departments and Human Resource organizations (e.g. Police and Anglicare).
  - g. where possible support the family as the unit primarily responsible for the care and protection of the child
3. All parties involved in situations where abuse is suspected are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.
  4. Where adults are not providing the care consistent with their obligations <sup>1</sup>**including adults deliberately creating, storing, viewing or transmitting offensive material through the internet or by other electronic means (e.g. mobile phone, memory stick etc.)** or where a child's welfare is at risk, or suspected to be at risk; intervention on behalf of the child is obligatory, cultural or other reasons notwithstanding.

## POLICY STATEMENT

1. **Trinity College Council takes responsibility for requiring**
  - **The College to:**
    - have a Child Protection Policy
    - ensure the Head has established processes and procedures in place to enact the policy
    - ensure resource allocation for child protection education and programs
    - ensure other policies are put in place to ensure that children are safe and feel safe; e.g. OHW&S Policy, Harassment/Bullying Policy, Duty of Care guidelines, Privacy Policy, Critical Incident Procedures
2. **The Head will:**
  - review the policy on a regular basis and provide current information on child protection
  - recommend changes in current policy to the College Council for approval
  - ensure that College staff have up to date professional development
  - notify the parent body about child protection curriculum areas and policies
  - act as media liaison person
  - ensure that school personnel other than paid staff understand the Child Protection Policy and their responsibilities
  - delegate the above duties as he/she sees fit to the Heads of Campus
3. **The College staff are:**
  - legally mandated and therefore are obliged to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect
    - Under Section 11(1) and (2) of the Children's Protection Act 1993 College staff are obliged by law to notify Families SA if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child/young person has been or is being abused or neglected and the suspicion is formed in the course of the person's work (whether paid or voluntary) or in carrying out official duties. The person must notify the Department of that suspicion as soon as practicable after he or she forms the suspicion. **(131478 Child Abuse Report Line)**
  - educated in the area of child protection and mandatory notification so that they can carry out their legal obligations, responsibilities and correct

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment – 25 November 2010

procedures when directly involved with the handling of disclosure and notification

- required to carry out their duties to ensure that the College is a safe environment where children are protected
- required to promote models of good behaviour between themselves and children
- implement curriculum involving child protection and abuse prevention
- educate children to achieve and maintain personal safety
- to ensure appropriate confidentiality of information concerning children and other parties in cases of suspected abuse or neglect
- to refer public or media enquiries about these matters to the Head and not publicly comment on them
- required to notify the School Principal when a mandatory notification has occurred
- deal expeditiously and with due regard for the urgency of each case

**4. School Personnel – Non-paid volunteers, personnel using College facilities to deliver programs to students; e.g. instrumental teachers and honorarium staff:**

- will receive a copy of this policy and, before commencement of duties, have their obligations explained to them by a senior staff member
- will sign an agreement with the College which will include confirmation that the policy is understood and that they agree to abide by it.
- will conduct themselves in a manner commensurate with College staff instructions (refer Point 3)
- are obligated to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to a staff member

## DEFINITIONS

### **Child Abuse**

Any maltreatment that damages the child's physical, mental, emotional or psychological health or that places the child's physical, mental, emotional or psychological development in jeopardy.

*Interagency Guidelines 1997 (Page 3)*

### **Children**

Persons under 18 years old. Students older than 18, who are enrolled at Trinity College are not covered by the legal mandate, however the Duty of Care provision under which teachers operate would require that these students be afforded the same protection as children under 18 years of age.

### **Confidentiality**

Refers to the restriction of discussion of a child's circumstances to those agencies and school personnel directly involved with helping the child and is in accordance with the Trinity College Privacy Policy (2002).

### **Family**

Refers to units consisting of parents or care-givers and children. Parents may be biological, adoptive or foster and the units may consist of blended and extended families, single parent families, families with children in respite or foster care or relatives with the care of children. Children are defined as those who are under the age of 18 years.

### ***Legally Mandated***

Persons obliged by law to notify Families SA (FSA) Child Abuse Report Line (131478) of suspicions of child abuse.

#### **Section 11 (1) and (2) Children's Protection Act 1993**

- a medical practitioner
- a registered or enrolled nurse
- a dentist
- a psychologist
- a member of the police force
- probation officer
- a social worker
- a teacher in any educational institution (including kindergarten)
- an approved family day care provider
- any other person who is an employee of, or volunteer in a government department agency that provides health, welfare, education, child care or residential services for children and is engaged in the actual delivery of those services to children/young people or"
- holds a management position in the relevant organization, the duties of which include direct responsibility for; or
- direct supervision of the provision of those services to children

### ***Reasonable Grounds***

Includes:

- when a child says he or she has been abused
- another person says a child has been abused
- the observations of a child's behaviour or injuries lead school personnel to suspect that abuse is occurring

### ***School Personnel***

Persons working at Trinity College in paid or voluntary capacities (e.g. teachers, school assistants, grounds staff, canteen workers, LAP volunteers etc.).

**N.B. This document should be read in conjunction with the booklet "Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: Mandatory Notification Guidelines" - © FSA. Copies of this booklet can be borrowed from School offices.**

The DET website – [www.tandd.sa.edu.au](http://www.tandd.sa.edu.au) contains useful recent information under the prompt "Mandatory Notification – Protective Behaviours".