



Child Safe Program

Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct

If you are a non-English speaker who needs help to understand this Policy, please contact the translator and interpreting service on Call 131 450 to speak to a translator. Ask the translator to ring Cardinia Shire Council on **1300 787 624**..

Purpose

At St Thomas Aquinas College we recognise that effective learning can only occur in a secure environment where the dignity, rights and responsibilities of others are known and respected and where standards and rules are fairly and consistently applied.

The Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct has been developed to clearly set out standards of behaviour related to Child Safety and Wellbeing that students are expected to abide by.

The College uses a variety of strategies to consult with students when considering the Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct. These may include surveys, discussion groups, consultation with the student representative body or other means. For more information, refer to [Participation and Empowerment of Students](#).

St Thomas Aquinas College Board has approved the College's Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct.

Source of Obligation

Standard 3 of the Victorian Child Safe Standards requires the College to ensure that children and young people are made aware of their rights, including their right to be safe from harm and that they

are provided with age-appropriate information about safe and respectful peer relationships.

To implement these requirements, Ministerial Order 1359 requires St Thomas Aquinas College Board to develop documentation that details the strategies and actions that the College will take to, among other things, inform children and students about all of their rights, including to safety, and to recognise the importance of friendships and encourage support from peers. Our Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct is one of these strategies.

Responsibilities

Managing the Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct is a shared responsibility between students, parents/carers and the College. All students and families have ready access to support offered by teachers, Staff and College Child Protection Officers.

St Thomas Aquinas College's Values

The Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct is based on the College's values.

Faith:	To firmly believe in God and all He has revealed to us through His Holy Catholic Church
Hope:	To trust in God; His infinite power, His goodness and His promises
Charity:	To love God above all things; and neighbour as self for the love of God.
Prudence:	To form a calm and well-balanced judgement, capable of discerning between truth & error, good & evil, justice & it's opposite
Justice:	To give to God and to give to man what is strictly owing to them.
Fortitude:	To undertake & endure difficulties, and to show resolve and constancy in doing good

Temperance:	To show self-restraint in the face of temptation or desire, even in some things that are permitted, so that reason governs passion.
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Students' Rights

Students have the right to:

- to be safe physically and emotionally
- to be respected
- to engage in learning

Students' Responsibilities

- to be safe in their words and actions
- to be respectful in their words and actions
- to participate and contribute in a positive manner in all aspects of learning
- Monitor their own behaviour to ensure that they do not perpetrate or perpetuate racial discrimination.
- Notify the College through a trusted member of staff including Teachers, Individual Needs staff, Administration staff, Deputy Principal and Principal, regarding any concerns regarding incidents, events or allegations of racial discrimination.

For more information, refer to [Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#) and [Harassment](#) policies.

Consequences for Breaching the Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to observe and uphold the above rights and responsibilities:

Students are also expected to abide by College rules and the policies of the College, as well as the directions of teachers.

A breach of this Student Code of Conduct, College rules or policy will be dealt with according to our Consequences of Breaching College Rules and Related Policies located in the Teacher Kiosk of TASSWeb: [Teacher Kiosk \(stac.vic.edu.au\)](#).

Raising Concerns About Safety

*****Whenever there are concerns that a child or young person is in immediate danger, call the Police on 000.*****

Any person can, at any time contact the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (Child Protection) if they have reasonable grounds to believe that a child is in need of protection or significant concerns about the wellbeing of a child. Reports can be made:

- during business hours (8:45am-5:00pm, Monday to Friday), telephoning the Child Protection intake service for the local government area where the child resides, listed [here](#).
- after hours, telephoning DFFH Child Protection on 13 12 78.

If a student has concerns about their safety, or the behaviour of others, it's important that they tell a trusted adult. This could be a parent or carer, a trusted teacher or a College Child Protection Officer.

Our Staff are committed to ensuring that all students feel empowered to speak up and be heard and will take all concerns raised by students seriously and ensure that the student receives ongoing support.

The College provides all students with information about and encourages them to use multiple pathways to raise child safety concerns about or at the College, including concerns about the behaviour of other students. These include informal and formal ways, an 'anonymous' way, and through external child advocacy or child safety organisations.

A child-friendly version of our [Child Safety and Wellbeing Complaints Management](#) policy, which explains these different pathways, is available

The Policy is available on the College website:

<https://www.stac.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Child-Friendly-Version-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy-.pdf>