

Emmaus Catholic Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

Introduction

Catholic education is an active partnership between family and school, where families are recognised as the first and ongoing educators of their children. Schools and families partner in the shared privilege and responsibility for children and young people's faith formation, learning, safety and wellbeing.

At Emmaus Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our 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 (CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety).

EMMAUS - THE SCRIPTURE STORY

Our school name is taken from the Gospel of Luke (24:13 - 35). In this Gospel, there is a story about two disciples walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were joined by Jesus but didn't recognise him. When they arrived at Emmaus they invited Jesus to join them for a meal. When Jesus 'broke the bread' and 'blessed the meal', the disciple's eyes were opened and they recognised who he was.

At Emmaus, we believe that only when we truly open ourselves up to others and share our story - whether journeying together, sharing a meal or the many joys and sorrows of everyday life do we really get to know each other. It is only then that we are able to see and value the strengths and unique gifts that people have.

The themes of journeying, welcoming, sharing and celebrating are alive in this story and within the community of Emmaus Catholic Primary School.

OUR SCHOOL MOTTO - JESUS STAY WITH US

Our school motto invites Jesus to stay with us - to be active and present as we journey together. The motto enhances the themes of hospitality, welcoming, belonging and celebrating from Luke's story. Jesus was invited to stay on by the travellers because He had presented himself to them which ignited their curiosity. The disciples felt there was something special about Jesus that made them want to find out more. Through our day to day living, our relationships with each other and through our celebration of the Eucharist we, like the disciples, invite Jesus to stay with us, to be our mentor, companion and friend.

OUR SCHOOL SYMBOL - THE LAMP AND FLAME

"I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life."
John 8:12

The lamp is historically a symbol of intelligence and wisdom. The lamp is an appropriate symbol for us at Emmaus as we foster lifelong learning, that promotes success and nurtures the talents and abilities of each individual. We strive to grow the whole child and hope to empower them to be the best they can be.

The flame reminds us that Jesus is always present and active in our lives. Our relationship with God, through Jesus, is nourished and deepened by His continual presence just as it was for the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Inspired by Christ, we live out the mission of Jesus through the celebration of the 'breaking of the bread'. As a Catholic community, we work together in unity, on our journey of faith, knowledge and love. We foster lifelong learning that promotes success and nurtures the talents and abilities of each individual. "Jesus stay with us".

Like Christ, we believe in empowering and nurturing so all can flourish.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the strategies and actions that we have in place at Emmaus Catholic Primary School to ensure that families, carers and other members of the school community are informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at the school.

This Policy takes into account the specific requirements of the Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial Order No. 1359.

Scope

This Policy applies to school employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy. It should be read in conjunction with related school policies and procedures, including:

1. Child Safety Framework
2. Child Safety Code of Conduct
3. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Principles

At Emmaus Catholic Primary School the following principles underpin our commitment to family engagement:

- Families and carers should have the opportunity to participate in decisions relating to child safety and wellbeing which affect their child.
- Our school engages and openly communicates with families, carers and other members of the school community about our child safe approach.
- All members of the school community should have access to information relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community must have the opportunity to provide input into the development and review of the school's policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing.
- Families, carers and other members of the school community have the right to be informed about the operations and governance of the school in relation to child safety and wellbeing.

Policy

Emmaus Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all members of our school community are kept informed about relevant child safety and wellbeing matters and are involved in the promotion of child safety and wellbeing at Emmaus Catholic Primary School

We implement the following strategies and actions to ensure that we are able to meet this commitment.

Strategies / actions used by school leadership

The Principal, the school governing authority and school leaders at Emmaus Catholic Primary School recognise their particular responsibilities to communicate and engage with families, carers and other

members of the school community in relation to issues regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- utilising the Emmaus Catholic Primary School Engaging Families in Child Safety Policy to inform and guide curriculum planning, policies and practices
- supporting staff, through appropriate professional learning, to strengthen their communication and engagement skills and to understand the value and importance of effective communication and engagement
- identifying opportunities for parents and carers to participate in decisions that affect their child's safety and wellbeing
- ensuring that existing policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing are made publicly available so that they are easily accessible to families, carers and other members of the school community
- engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community to collaboratively develop and periodically review policies and practices relating to child safety and wellbeing
- creating opportunities to ensure that members of the school community are adequately informed about the school's operations and governance relating to child safety and wellbeing

Strategies / actions used by school staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy

School staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy at Emmaus Catholic Primary School also have a responsibility to support the school governing authority and school leaders in communicating and engaging with families, carers and other members of the school community regarding child safety and wellbeing. Strategies and actions used to carry out this responsibility include:

- creating and maintaining open lines of communication with families, carers and other members of the school community, particularly with respect to child safety and wellbeing matters
- liaising with parents and carers in relation to any concerns and/or decisions that affect their child and giving them the opportunity to contribute to any discussions, where appropriate
- ensuring that parents, carers and others in the school community are updated and involved in child safety and wellbeing
- ensuring they act in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy when managing issues relating to child safety and wellbeing

External references

Related Resources – Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

[eXcel: Wellbeing for learning in Catholic school communities](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Vision and Context](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Families as Partners](#)

[Horizons of Hope: Wellbeing](#)

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed in consultation with members of the wider community as part of the school's two-year review cycle of its child safety practices.
- Update of the policy will occur if any new requirements come to hand.

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Student Wellbeing
Approving body/individual	MACS Board

Approval date	13 April 2022
Risk rating	High
Date of next review	April 2023

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Related documents	
Superseded documents	
New policy	New