



8 September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We believe that there is nothing more important than child safety and we work daily to ensure that children are educated in a safe environment. Key to this effort is for students to know that they can talk with staff, parents or other trusted adults if they have any concerns about themselves or their friends. This week is National Child Protection Week and I take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what we are doing to meet the above commitment.

We firmly believe that the following information is vitally important for all parents and I encourage you to take the time to access the link provided below and ensure that you are up to date so you can teach your children about their right to feel safe, how to keep themselves out of danger and what to do if they are at all concerned about anything they have seen or experienced. The topic of Student Protection is also covered in our curriculum throughout the school, in student diaries and on our website.

As parents and carers I know that child protection is uppermost in your mind. We will only achieve our commitment to student protection when teachers, parents and students work together on this, one of society's more pressing issues. The Anglican Church of Southern Qld welcomes the Royal Commission into the Institutional Response to Sexual Abuse and has recently renewed its Policies and Procedures for all schools in the Diocese. All staff are trained in matters of student protection, with Principals and Student Protection Officers receiving specific training. A new Handbook for Parents will soon be available.

<http://stjohnsanglicancollege.com.au/student-protection-in-anglican-schools/>

There are four Student Protection Officers at St John's, Robern Hinchliffe and Wayne Pascoe on the secondary campus and Sandra Hawken and Martin Brownlow on the primary campus. Students can also talk to other trusted adults if they have seen or experienced anything they are worried about.

Further, the Anglican Church is working with Cyber Safety consultant Brett Lee to prepare a series of age appropriate podcasts for parents with helpful tips to manage your home internet environment and educate your children about the reality of potential dangers in daily life and on line.

Today, I have spoken to students at the secondary school assembly to let them know about their right to feel safe, how to avoid danger and who to see if they are concerned. Mrs Hawken will also speak to the primary school students this week.

We are always available to talk to you if you have any concerns about Student Protection. Please feel free to contact our Student Protection Officers or me at any time.

Yours sincerely

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**Head of College**

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