



St Thomas the Apostle, Blackburn

We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people in our parish.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

As a parish within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, St Thomas the Apostle, Blackburn, holds that all adults are responsible for the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our parish. It is a central and fundamental responsibility of our Church and our society. This 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.

As a parish under the stewardship of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we hold as a principal “to be on earth the heart of God.’ With this vision, there is a universal expectation for the protection of children. It is expected that those engaged in the Church and within our parish promote the inherent dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment.

This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including aboriginal children, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability. We have a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe.

Every person involved in St Thomas the Apostle, Blackburn, has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

We want our children to be safe, happy and empowered.

We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and then reducing or removing them. If you see something of concern, please let us know.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations and our Church and Government policies.

<p>We are in the process of appointing a Child Protection Officer.</p>	<p>Church/Government policies we will comply with: (list is not exhaustive and will be updated as relevant)</p>
<p>In the interim, for any concerns please contact either one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair PPC: Anand Rego • Parish Priest: Fr Terry Bowman • Pastoral Associate Youth: Caren Garlick • Phone: Parish Office: 9878 0818 	<p>Archdiocese Website: http://www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Policy-Documents Catholic Education Commission Victoria: http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Our-Schools/Child-Safety Catholic Education Melbourne: https://www.cem.edu.au/Our-Schools/Child-Safety.aspx Commission for children and young people: https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/ https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/about-the-reportable-conduct-scheme/</p>