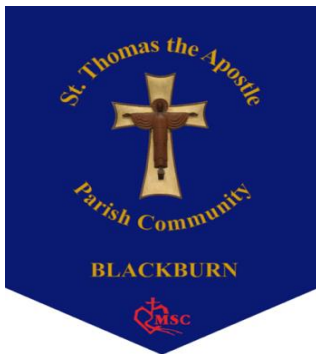


St Thomas the Apostle Safeguarding Children Policy Declaration



Central to the mission of St Thomas the Apostle is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Purpose

The St Thomas the Apostle Safeguarding Children Policy has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at *St Thomas The Apostle* against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement child protection legislation and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's "Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Children.

St Thomas the Apostle respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and their young leaders of today and emerging.



St Thomas the Apostle Safeguarding Children Policy Declaration

All staff, volunteers, parishioners, contractors, clergy and parish council members at *St Thomas the Apostle* are expected to actively contribute to a parish culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child-safe principles and there are expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children.

By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code of conduct to St Thomas the Apostle Safeguarding Children Committee. Failure to comply with this code of conduct will be investigated by St Thomas the Apostle and may result in disciplinary action under the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Children Policy.

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the strong commitment of St Thomas the Apostle to the care, safety and wellbeing of all children in our parish. It provides an outline of the policies, procedures and strategies all clergy, personnel, volunteers, contractors and parishioners must understand and accept so as to keep children safe from harm, including all forms of abuse in our parish environment, on site, online and in other locations used by the parish. This policy applies to all parish personnel, including clergy, employee, volunteers, contractors and parishioners.

I am responsible for my own actions and utilise safe church standards and best practices to avoid actions and behaviours that could be in breach of this code of conduct and the safeguarding children policies of St Thomas the Apostle. I am aware that St Thomas the Apostle expects me to uphold at all times the standards of behaviour described in the Safeguarding Children Policy. I also understand that disciplinary measures and legal steps will be taken if I am found to be in breach of this policy and/or the Code of Conduct. I understand that in making this report, St Thomas the Apostle may have to inform other authorities, in a confidential manner and only, if necessary, for the safety of the child, the staff member, or the agency, or to meet obligations under Australian law.

I agree have read, understand and will adhere to the St Thomas the Apostle Safeguarding Children Policy

Name:

Signature:

Witness Name:

Witness Signature.....

Date:

St Thomas the Apostle respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and their young leaders of today and emerging.