



# Mount Alvernia College

## Student Protection Policy

<b>Last Review:</b> UPDATED February 2024	<b>Constructed / Reviewed by:</b> Principal
<b>Next Review:</b> February 2025	<b>Approval Required:</b> College Board
	<b>Approval Date:</b> 21 February 2024

### Purpose of the Policy

Our Student Protection Policy demonstrates the strong commitment Mount Alvernia College has towards the health, safety, wellbeing and protection of all children and young people in our care. The processes and guidelines that accompany this policy outline the practices that we have developed to keep our students safe from abuse, neglect or harm and highlight the key elements of our approach to ensuring our College is a Child Safe organisation.

As a Catholic College, we respect and value the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of every child and young person and recognise that all students should have the ability to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. This growth and development should be free of harm, violence or exploitation.

Our Student Protection Policy provides the framework for:

- the creation of a safe and supportive College environment and a positive and robust child safe culture.
- the creation of a culture which provides prompt and supportive responses to allegations of suspicions of harm of any kind.
- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote student protection, safety and wellbeing within the College.
- the promotion and open discussion of child safety issues within the College.
- compliance with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to student protection in Queensland.

### Scope

The Student Protection Policy applies to all adults in the College community, including all staff, directors, volunteers, contractors, external education providers, parents/carers and other family members. This Policy applies in all College environments, both physical and online, and on-site and off-site College grounds (e.g. camps and excursions).

### Statement of Commitment

Mount Alvernia College is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into aspirational, well-supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students and is dedicated to protecting them from harm. At Mount Alvernia College we have zero tolerance for child abuse. Our student protection responsibilities are of the utmost importance for the College and, as such, the College is

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committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws, regulations and standards, and to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people.

Mount Alvernia College demonstrates commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

1. implementing strategies that promote student safety and wellbeing through the leadership, governance and culture of the College;
2. listening to the views of students and keeping students informed about decisions that affect their safety and wellbeing;
3. involving families, carers and relevant communities in decision making processes that support the development of a child safe culture and environment;
4. promoting equity and respecting the cultural diversity of families and reflecting this in our policies and practices;
5. maintaining robust selection, recruitment and training practices for directors, staff, contractors and volunteers and supporting all personnel to uphold child safety and wellbeing values;
6. responding swiftly and sensitively to any child safety concerns and applying clear procedures for managing and reporting child safety concerns;
7. investing in regular training and education so that staff are able to recognise the nature and indicators of child abuse and other harm and how to build safe environments for young people;
8. promoting policies and procedures that help to mitigate risks to young people in online environments and supporting teachers and parents/carers by sharing helpful advice and resources about e-safety;
9. supporting and promoting the National Child Safe Principles by regularly reviewing our practices to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is at the forefront our decisions; and
10. implementing policies and procedures that support child safety.

## **Policy and Program Review**

Mount Alvernia College is committed to the continuous improvement of our Student Protection Policy, Processes and Guidelines. These are regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations, standards and adherence to our Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy.

The College is committed to actively seeking, actioning, and incorporating, feedback from students, families, the wider College community, staff, volunteers and contractors, and will communicate any adjustments or amendments to our policies or procedures throughout the College community.

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## Student Protection Contacts

Under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (section 16(3)), Mount Alvernia College has at least two nominated staff members to whom a student can report behaviour of another staff member, adult or student that the student considers inappropriate. The names of the Student Protection Contacts are made known to staff, students and parents and are as follows:

<b>Samantha Jensen</b> Principal	Email: <a href="mailto:jenss@staff.mta.qld.edu.au">jenss@staff.mta.qld.edu.au</a>	Phone: (07) 3357 6000
<b>Kathryn Dendy</b> Deputy Principal – Student Development & Wellbeing	Email: <a href="mailto:dendk@staff.mta.qld.edu.au">dendk@staff.mta.qld.edu.au</a>	Phone: (07) 3357 6000
<b>Tanya McConnell:</b> College Counsellor	Email: <a href="mailto:mccot@staff.mta.qld.edu.au">mccot@staff.mta.qld.edu.au</a>	Phone: (07) 3357 6000
<b>Amber Bleakley:</b> College Counsellor	Email: <a href="mailto:bleaa@staff.mta.qld.edu.au">bleaa@staff.mta.qld.edu.au</a>	Phone: (07) 3357 6000

## Relevant Legislation and Other Policies

- [Child Protection Act 1999 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Child Protection Regulation 2023 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2017 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Act 2017 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Regulation 2017 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Regulation 2020 \(Qld\)](#)
- Mount Alvernia College Student Protection Processes
- Mount Alvernia College Guidelines
- Mount Alvernia College Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy
- National Child Safe Principles

This policy is published on the Mount Alvernia College Learning Management System (MyMtA) and Mount Alvernia College **link**. The details of our Student Protection Contacts are displayed on campus and are published for our students in their planners.

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