Child Well-being and Child Protection Policy

Edited March 2013

► AIM

Green Point Christian College aims to create a safe setting where students can learn, are respected and empowered to achieve their life goals in a supportive Christian environment. Green Point Christian College takes a proactive approach to student wellbeing and values the opportunity to build foundational life lessons and encourage students to reach their full potential. It is committed to the implementation of procedures for managing child safety and endorses the importance of the NSW Governments five year (2009-14) action plan Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbein. Keep Them Safe’s goal is that "all children in NSW are healthy, happy and safe, and grow up belonging in families and communities where they have opportunities to reach their full potential. In particular, Keep Them Safe includes actions to enhance the universal service system, improve prevention and early intervention services, better protect children at risk, support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and indigenous families, and strengthen partnerships with non-government organisations in the delivery of community services.” Green Point Christian College has a duty of care to ensure that all students are provided with a high level of safety and protection during the hours of operation. Green Point Christian College is dedicated to early intervention and prevention of child abuse in any form.

► RATIONALE

Child protection is a shared responsibility. All Green Point Christian College students have a right to be protected from physical or psychological harm and to grow and develop in a safe and caring environment. Child abuse is a global problem that affects all cultures, economic status and genders. All staff are responsible to care and protect students from any kind of abuse. Early intervention is vital in preventing child abuse. Green Point Christian College provides support to students, families, carers and staff directly with mentoring, consultation with the Principal and Senior Executive and counselling team. Green Point Christian College will manage reports of abuse promptly and appropriately.

► SCOPE

This policy is intended for teaching and non-teaching staff as well as volunteers in their work with students of the school. Green Point Christian College staff are committed Christians that seek to care for and nurture students at the College. This policy is to be read in conjunction with related Green Point Christian College policies.

► POLICY PRINCIPLES

• Green Point Christian College is committed to providing a caring, safe and accepting environment for students.
• Green Point Christian College believes all children have the right to grow up free from abuse and neglect and as such, is committed to action where concerns are found.

• Green Point Christian College aims to act in the most supportive manner possible towards its families, but will always put the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people first.

• All staff are to be aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect of children and young people as outlined in the MRG and the Child Wellbeing and Child Protection – NSW Interagency Guidelines. • Student’s parents, volunteers and staff are encouraged to raise any child wellbeing concerns.