

# Commitment to Child Safety

Catholic Education Western Australia's (CEWA) schools and care centres are Christ-centred and child-focused places of learning for children and young people.

We are committed to being a child safe organisation. Our children and young people have the right to be safe and feel safe to be able to flourish in their learning and development.

Our schools and care centres enact the Church's commitment to the dignity of the individual. All members of our school and care centre communities have a fundamental right to be treated with respect, and to learn and teach in a safe and supportive environment. We encourage children and young people to contribute more broadly to the development of the kind of world envisaged by Christ, to form a commitment to the love, compassion and justice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We promote justice, particularly to those who are culturally, physically, intellectually, financially or spiritually disadvantaged (*Mandate for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia, 2009*).

**The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.**

*Congregation for Catholic Education 1997, par. 9*

Our Framework for the Development of Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools (CEWA, 2007) enhances the dignity of each person within their Catholic community, and provide a safe and supportive school environment to promote care, respect and cooperation. The framework values diversity, and takes action to protect children from all forms of abuse and neglect.

CEWA's Child Safe Framework supports leaders to develop a child safe culture in their schools and care centres. The Framework emphasises situational prevention to reduce risk, promotes professional behaviours and healthy, respectful relationships, and is aimed at meeting and exceeding regulatory obligations and standards (CEWA, 2018).

Elements of the Framework are also expressed in CEWA's Vision for Learning. Quality Relationships; Engagement; and Place, Space and Technology support child safety and wellbeing as an integral part of contemporary teaching and learning in our system (CEWA Vision for Learning, 2018).