Queensland Baptists Education Company Ltd
Trading as Bayside Christian College Hervey Bay
ABN: 33 072 005 657

Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Protection of Children from Harm

Approved by:	Principal/CEO
Approved on:	February 2022

Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Protection of Children from Harm

Bayside Christian College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people alike. This commitment stems far beyond our legal and regulatory obligations and is deeply rooted in our Christian beliefs. As Christians, we believe that:

1. all people are made in the image of God, and are the supreme focus of His creative work; and

2. the value of human life is guaranteed from this Divine likeness and parentage, and that this is true for all humanity, not just Christians.

Jesus said:

> "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" Mark 12: 30 (NIV)
>
> "Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these" Mark 12: 31 (NIV)

In these two Scripture verses, we find the basis for our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children, and their protection from harm. If we are to truly love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength, then we are indeed called, obligated, and held to account for our care, commitment to the safety, and protection of all others, and most particularly to children.

Bayside Christian College holds the safety, wellbeing, and care of its students as our highest priority, obligation, and our duty to God. Our College has a zero tolerance for child abuse or endangerment. We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are not only safe, but feel safe, and one in which their voices are heard in the decisions that affect their life within the College.

Every person involved in our College 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 in every decision they make.

In our planning, decision-making and operations, Bayside Christian College will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions that affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all people to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Engage only the most suitable and highly caring people to work with children and have high quality supervision and professional development for staff and volunteers;
5. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise issues of concern.

In addition, our College will develop policies, practices and procedures that ensure clear expectations surrounding:

- All matters of child protection, safety, and wellbeing;
- Professional boundaries and expectations; and
- Volunteer engagement.

The College will also develop:

1. Pastoral programs that educate young people on appropriate behaviour, what they expect from each other and adults, and how to manage difficult and challenging situations;

2. Chapel programs that bring the Word of God to the ears of our young people; that articulate God's divine promise to us; and that which articulates Christ's teachings;

3. Expectations that are founded on our beliefs, the desire to enable an aspirational culture, and one that is based on a love for all. The College will ensure that all members of the community are aware of these expectations and that appropriate accountabilities are in place, surrounded by a grace and care for all.

The Board of Bayside Christian College is committed to ensuring not only a Child Safe Environment, but one in which children grow to know the love of God, His Word, and start on their journey to understand the work He has set aside for them.

B Grimes
Principal/CEO
Bayside Christian College