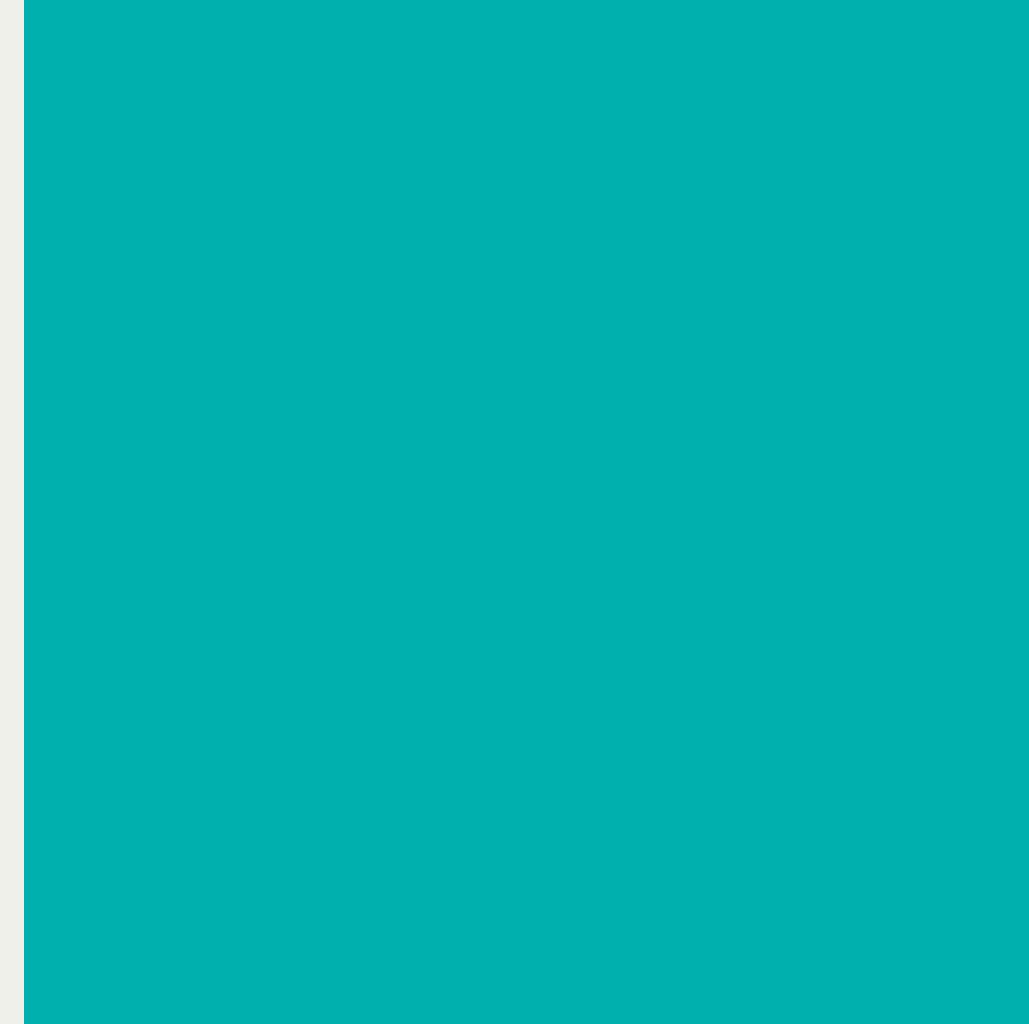


# Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

*Information Session for the  
School Community*







## Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationships of Aboriginal peoples to country. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of Australia present here.



## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom and support as we begin this session. Help us to engage in meaningful discussions and to grow in our awareness and understanding.

Dear Lord, continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the greater glory of you and for the good of our children.

We as these things in your name, Amen.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# What is a child protection curriculum?

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# Activity

- What do children need to be and feel safe?
- Why do we need a child protection curriculum?



## Children and young people have a right to:

- be treated with respect and to be protected from harm;
- feel and be safe in their interactions with adults and other children and young people;
- understand, as early as possible, what is meant by ‘feeling and being safe’; and
- receive the support of counsellors or designated staff in their education or care setting whose role includes advocacy for their safety and wellbeing.



# Responsibilities

It is a fundamental principle in Australian society that parents have the responsibility to protect their children and keep them safe.

Australia supports a United Nations agreement that children are to be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence. Abuse may be neglect, sexual, physical or emotional in nature.

Australia has laws to prevent and respond to the abuse and/or neglect of children. *The Children and Community Services Amendment Act (2004)* governs mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in Western Australia.

The following professional groups must, by law, make a report to to Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support if in the course of their work (paid or unpaid) they form a belief, based on reasonable grounds, that child sex abuse has occurred or is occurring. Teachers, Boarding house supervisors, Nurses and midwives, Doctors, Police officers.



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# Background

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## FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO – The role of the Christian family in the modern world (Pope John Paul II, 1981)

*“In the family, which is a community of persons, special attention must be devoted to the children by developing a profound esteem for their personal dignity, and a great respect and generous concern for their rights. This is true for every child, but it becomes all the more urgent the smaller the child is and the more it is in need of everything, when it is sick, suffering or handicapped.*

*By fostering and exercising a tender and strong concern for every child that comes into this world, the Church fulfils a fundamental mission: for she is called upon to reveal and put forward anew in history the example and the commandment of Christ the Lord, who placed the child at the heart of the Kingdom of God.”*



## GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS – Declaration on Christian Education (Pope Paul IV, 1965)

*“For a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share.*

*Therefore children and young people must be helped, with the aid of the latest advances in psychology and the arts and science of teaching, to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual endowments so that they may gradually acquire a mature sense of responsibility in striving endlessly to form their own lives properly and in pursuing true freedom as they surmount the vicissitudes of life with courage and constancy.”*



# Mandate: Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia

Responsibilities of parents to the Catholic school

Good relationships are vital if Catholic schools are to achieve their aims. Both parents and the school need to work at building constructive relationships.

Parents' support is critical in the educational process. Therefore, we urge parents to use the school processes and opportunities provided to facilitate their involvement.

# Child protection: a snapshot

Prior to 1985, the focus of child protection in schools was solely on stranger danger. The statistics on offenders indicate the problem with this approach.

From 1985, the Protective Behaviours program was introduced from the United States. It was chosen for non-professional reasons, and was never evaluated independently with children. The problems identified include reliance on feeling safe, acceptability of enjoyable touching, and "good vs. bad" secrets.

New South Wales and New Zealand developed age-appropriate, comprehensive programs. Some Western Australian Catholic schools have implemented these.

Most recently, South Australia developed the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum across all sectors. Western Australian Catholic and independent education sectors see the value in this program, and are now beginning to access and implement it within schools.







# Child safe organisations

Prepared by the Truth, Justice & Healing Council, 11 October 2013, Submission to Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Issues Paper 3, *Child Safe Institutions*

- A protective, child-centred organisational culture
- Governance and leadership informed by an understanding of the developmental needs of children
- Risk management processes that identifies and develops responses to high risk issues in the organisation's operations
- Implementation of a child protection policy
- Human resource practices that promote the recruitment of suitable people to work with children, invest in their development, and monitor their performance
- Effective investigation processes.
- External monitoring
- Empowerment of children
- Victim support programs





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# Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

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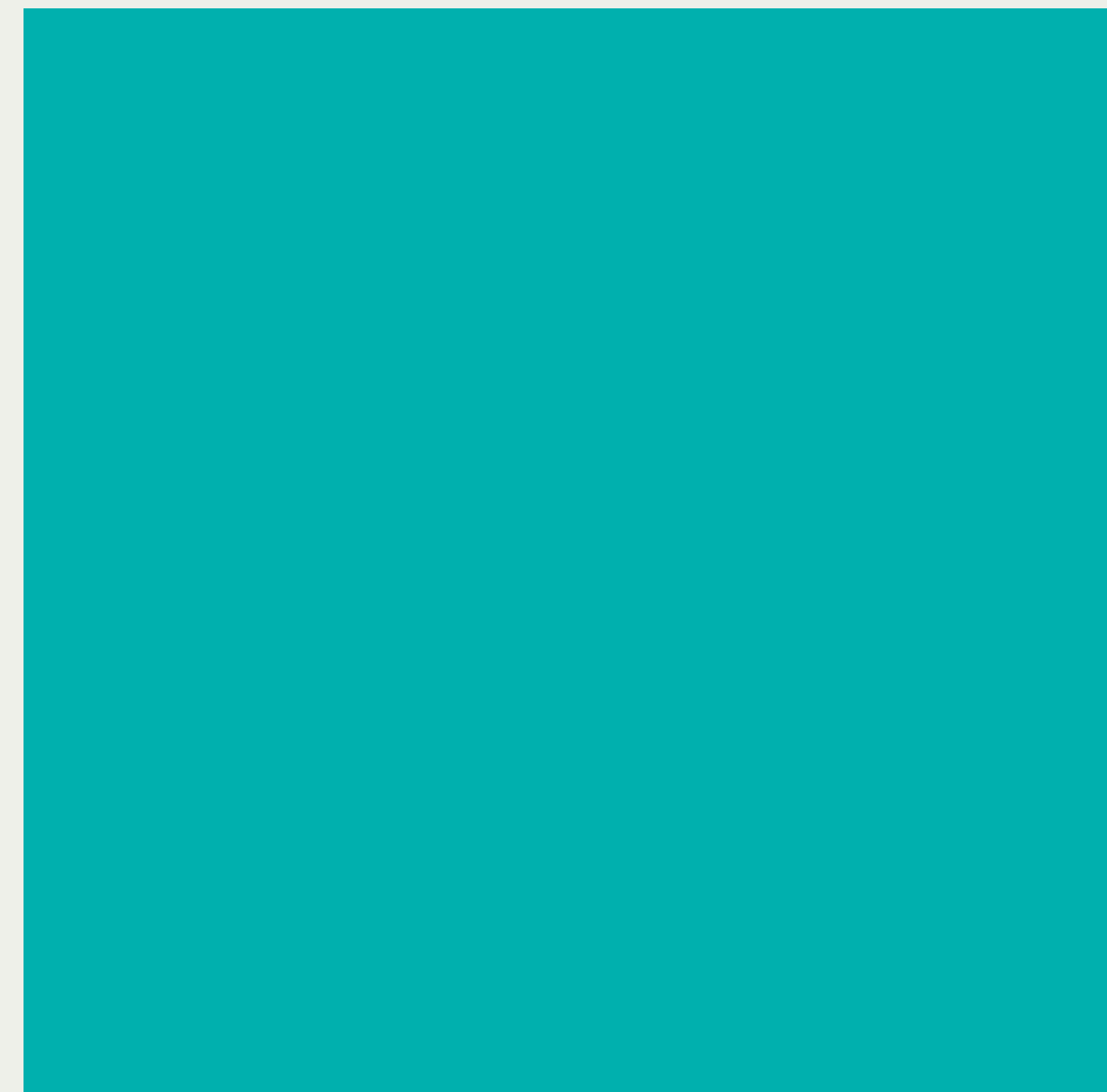


# Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC) was developed from 2003-2007 by the Government of South Australia, published in 2008 and implemented in schools throughout South Australia in 2009.

During 2013, the KS:CPC underwent a review and update by an expert advisory committee.

In 2017, the KS:CPC was updated to strengthen contemporary topics and create a more user-friendly resource for teachers.





# Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

The KS:CPC teaches all children from a young age, in an age appropriate way, to:

- recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult about it
- understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching; and
- understand ways of keeping themselves safe.

Teachers that deliver the curriculum must complete a training course.







# Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

## YEAR LEVEL GROUPS

There are five main documents divided into year level groups:

Early Years: Ages 3 – 5

Early Years: Years R – 2

Primary Years: Years 3 – 5

Middle Years: Years 6 – 9

Senior Years: Years 10 – 12







# Themes in KS:CPC

**THEME 1:** We all have the right to be safe

**THEME 2:** We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust

There are four focus areas within each theme:

1. The right to be safe
2. Relationships
3. Recognising and reporting abuse
4. Protective strategies







# The right to be safe

**The right to be safe** covers age appropriate areas such as:

- Feelings
- Being safe
- Warning signs
- Risk-taking and emergencies
- Psychological pressure and manipulation







# Relationships

**Relationships** covers age appropriate areas such as:

- Rights and responsibilities
- Identity and relationships
- Power in relationships
- Trust and networks





# Recognising and reporting abuse

**Recognising and reporting abuse** covers age appropriate areas such as:

- Privacy and the body
- Touching
- Recognising abuse
- Secrets
- Cyber safety
- Domestic and family violence







# Protective strategies

**Protective strategies** covers age appropriate areas such as:

- Strategies for keeping safe
- Persistence
- Network review and community support







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# Information and Resources

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member





# Working together

Catholic schools would not exist without the outstanding dedication and contribution of parents

To maximise child protection strategies, staff, parents/carers and the school community are encouraged to work together to ensure that all children and young people are safe and understand how to stay safe.

Parents/carers can seek information about the child protection curriculum from their child's school, preschool or childcare centre and are encouraged to ask questions.







# How do I help?

You can help your child by:

- Actively listening
- Talking together
- Encouraging the development of respectful relationships
- Supporting and monitoring children's developing networks
- Monitoring safe online use
- Supporting children to practice problem solving strategies
- Monitoring changes in behaviour
- Reinforcing that it's okay to say 'no'
- Being informed about the KS:CPC



# Where can I find more information?

Catholic Education Western Australia website [www.ceo.edu.au](http://www.ceo.edu.au)

A website is currently under development for the Child Safe Framework. Launch of the website is planned to be available late Term 1.