

Child Risk Management Policy and Strategy

Policy Number:	705	
Status:	Approved	
Applies to:	All Staff	
Scope:	Any incident relating to harm or potential harm to students that requires reporting by law. This is a compulsory Policy.	
Supersedes:	Previous Policy of 2012	
Authorised by:	Board President	Date of Authorisation: March 2018
Review Date:	Annually	Next Review Date: March 2019
Policy Owner:	School Governing Body: Board of the Rudolf Steiner Education Group Brisbane (RSEGB)	

Please do not retain hard copies of policies for a length of time; the latest version will be available online.

PURPOSE The purpose of this Policy and associated strategy is to eliminate and minimise risk to child safety to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

DEFINITIONS Director: Principal of SVSS
SLT: Senior Leadership Team – the School’s leadership team

WHEN IT APPLIES This is a compulsory Policy that applies at all times.

PRINCIPLES Duty of care to the children who are enrolled at or visit the Samford Valley Steiner School is a conscious priority of all staff.

POLICY Samford Valley Steiner School (SVSS) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of students enrolled at the School. In accordance with sections 171 and 172 of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld), SVSS is dedicated to eliminating and minimising risks to child safety through this Strategy which includes and refers to various other policies and procedures to effectively ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in the School’s care.

This Child Risk Management Strategy is evidence of SVSS commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm in fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(a) of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2011* (Qld).

Responsibilities

SVSS is responsible for developing and implementing this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures to ensure it fulfils its obligations.

All employees at SVSS are responsible for acting in compliance with this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures.

Compliance and Monitoring

Compliance and monitoring of this Strategy will occur through:

- Annual review of the Strategy and associated policies and procedures;
- Accurate recording, monitoring and reporting of breaches of the Strategy to the School Board, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and others as appropriate;
- Other compliance and monitoring arrangements made under relevant/ associated policies and procedures.

REVIEW OF POLICY

Annual, taking account of any relevant legislative changes.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

As required in fulfilling duties outlined.

The Board:

1. Ensure that staff, students and parents are aware of the School's Child Protection processes through annual communications.
2. Ensure that an annual audit of compliance with the Child Protection Policy and processes is undertaken, including induction of new staff and annual training.
3. Ensure that annual staff training for Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) occurs.

The Director:

1. Ensure all staff members are familiar with the School's Child Protection Policy and the Child Risk Management Strategy, through appropriate induction processes and annual professional development.
2. Ensure all staff members are familiar with the School's Workplace Health and Safety Policy, through appropriate induction processes and annual professional development.
3. Undertake an annual audit of compliance with processes and Policy.
4. Report annually to the Board on compliance.
5. Ensure processes relating to the health, safety and conduct of staff and students are accessible on the School website and will be available on request from the School administration¹.

Staff members:

All staff are required to familiarise themselves with the School's Child Protection Policy, Child Risk Management Strategy, and Workplace Health and Safety Policy and to apply the principles and processes as required.

ADMINISTRATION

Nil

CONTACT

Director

¹ Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001 (Qld) s.10(6)

REFERENCES

- [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Regulation 2011 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Child Protection Act 1999 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Act 2001 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Accreditation of Non-State Schools\) Regulation 2001 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2006 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education Services for Overseas Students \(ESOS\) Act 2000 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Education \(Overseas Students\) Regulation 1998 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education \(Queensland College of Teachers\) Act 2005 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Law \(Queensland\) Act 2011 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy Toolkit](#)

LINKED POLICIES OR DOCUMENTS

- SVSS Child Protection Policy and procedures
- SVSS Complaints Resolution Policy and procedures
- SVSS Blue Card Register
- SVSS Risk Management Framework
- SVSS Employee Code of Conduct
- SVSS Recruitment, Selection and Termination of Employment Policy
- SVSS Staff Appraisal and Professional Development Policy
- SVSS Performance Management Policy

Helpful Links

- Independent Schools Queensland's [Child Protection Decision Support Trees](#)
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' [Child Protection Guide](#) resource

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Measures, in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act*
- Appendix 2: Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form

QUESTIONS

Nil

APPENDIX 1

IMPLEMENTATION: Measures, in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act*

In practice, Samford Valley Steiner School’s commitment to acting in accordance to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act* (“the Act”) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students means that it will implement the measures outlined below in points 1 - 8.

<p>1. Code of Conduct</p>	<p>At Samford Valley Steiner School we expect our employees to conduct themselves as follows: School employees are expected to always behave in ways that promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people. They must actively seek to prevent harm to children and young people, and to support those who have been harmed.</p> <p>Specific responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees should avoid situations where they are alone in an enclosed space with a student. • When physical contact with a student is a necessary part of the teaching/learning experience, employees must exercise caution to ensure that the contact is appropriate and acceptable. Employees must always advise the student of what they intend doing and seek their consent. • Employees must not develop a relationship with any student that is, or that can be interpreted as having a personal rather than a professional interest in a student. • Employees must not have a romantic or sexual relationship with a student. <p>This commitment is evidence of Samford Valley Steiner School’s fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(b) of the Regulation.</p>
<p>2. Recruitment, Selection, Training and Management Procedures</p>	<p>Samford Valley Steiner School is committed to recruiting, selecting, training and managing employees in such a way that limits risks to children. In particular, Samford Valley Steiner School will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that its recruitment and selection procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accurate position descriptions, including whether the successful applicant must be a teacher registered with the Queensland College of Teachers (who has been subject to relevant police and other safety checks), whether a Blue Card is necessary for the successful applicant, the responsibilities and supervision associated with the position, the nature and environment of the service provided to children, and the experience and qualifications required by the successful applicant

- Advertising the position with a clear statement about the School’s commitment to safe and supportive work practices and identifying that candidates will be subject to a teacher registration check or Blue Card screening, a police check, referee checks, identification verification and the requirement to disclose any information relevant to the candidates’ eligibility to engage in activities including young people
- A selection process that includes assessing the application via an interview process and referee and other checks (as identified above) based on the accurate position description
- A probationary period of employment, which allows the School to further assess the suitability of the new employee and to act as a check on the selection process
- Ensure that its training and management procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
 - Management processes that are consistent, fair and supportive
 - Performance management processes to help employees to improve their performance in a positive manner
 - Supportive processes for staff when they are experiencing challenges, such as mentoring, mediation, conflict resolution, coaching, additional training, and external support and counselling services
 - An induction program which thoroughly addresses the School’s policies and procedures, particularly its expectations regarding child risk management and to assist employees to understand their role in providing a safe and supportive environment for children
 - Training new and existing staff on an ongoing basis to enhance skills and knowledge and to reduce exposure to risks, as follows:
 - The School’s policies and procedures
 - Identifying, assessing and minimising risks to children
 - Handling a disclosure or suspicion of harm to a child
 - Keeping a record of the training provided to employees
 - Exit interviews to assist the School to identify broader issues of concern that may impact on the safety and wellbeing of children at the School

This commitment is evidence of Samford Valley Steiner School’s fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(c) of the Regulation.

<p>3. Handling Disclosures or Suspicions of Harm</p>	<p>Any of the types of concerns or reports below should be reported and managed under the Samford Valley Steiner School Child Protection Policy and the Child Protection Procedure, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff with concerns about sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse; • Teachers with concerns of sexual or physical abuse; and • All staff who have received a report of inappropriate behaviour by another staff member. <p>In accordance with the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>, if a teacher is aware or reasonably suspects harm has been caused to a student under 18 years and the harm has not been reported under the Child Protection Policy, the teacher must report the harm to the Chief Executive of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (or other department administering the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>), with a copy of the report to be provided to the Director. The types of harm reported may include emotional or psychological abuse or neglect or sexual exploitation. If a staff member (other than a teacher) is aware or reasonably suspects harm has been caused the staff member is to report the harm to the Director.</p> <p>If the Director is aware or reasonably suspects the harm has been caused and that the student is in need of protection, the Director must report the harm or suspected harm to the Chief Executive of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (or other department administering the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>). In assessing whether a student is in need of protection, the Director will consider the Samford Valley Steiner School Child Protection Procedure, as well as utilise the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services’ Child Protection Guide resource.</p> <p>Please refer to Samford Valley Steiner School Child Protection Policy (Procedures) as well as to Independent Schools Queensland’s Child Protection Decision Support Trees for information of the process for reporting all types of harm, including sexual abuse.</p> <p>To report any type of harm, all staff members should use the Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form in Appendix 2 of this Strategy.</p> <p>Furthermore, and in accordance with section 76 of the <i>Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005</i>, the Director of Samford Valley Steiner School will report to the Queensland College of Teachers any investigations into allegations of harm caused, or likely to be caused, to a child because of the conduct of a relevant teacher at the School.</p> <p>This commitment is evidence of Samford Valley Steiner School’s fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(d) of the Regulation.</p>
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<p>4. Managing breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy</p>	<p>Samford Valley Steiner School is committed to appropriately managing breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy in accordance with its other relevant policies as appropriate in the circumstances, such as its Child Protection Policy, Employee Code of Conduct, and Complaints Resolution Policy, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(e) of the Regulation.</p>
<p>5. Implementing and Reviewing the Child Risk Management Strategy</p>	<p>This Strategy in its entirety and its related policies and procedures are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(f)(i) of the Regulations relating to implementation.</p> <p>The introduction to this Child Risk Management Strategy and the “Compliance and Monitoring” section below state Samford Valley Steiner School’s commitment to reviewing the Strategy annually and are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(f)(i) of the Regulation relating to review.</p>
<p>6. Blue Card Policies and Procedures</p>	<p>Samford Valley Steiner School is committed to acting in accordance with chapter 8 of the Act relating to the screening of employees in such a way that limits risks to children. In particular, Samford Valley Steiner School will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require relevant perspective or current employees, volunteers, trainee students and School board members to apply for a Blue Card or Exemption Notice, and check the validity and appropriateness of any currently held notices as appropriate, in accordance with Samford Valley Steiner School position descriptions and the Act • Complete an <i>Authorisation to confirm a valid card</i> application when necessary • Submit a <i>Change in police notification</i> form when notified by employee that such a change has occurred • Not allow a person to continue to work with children if their Blue Card or Exemption Notice is cancelled or suspended or a negative notice is received after a change of police information • Submit a <i>No longer with organisation</i> form when appropriate • Appoint a School contact person who will be responsible for managing the screening process and all related documentation and records • Keep written records of all the above actions, decisions and outcomes, including the dates of expiry of Blue Cards and Exemption Notices • Ensure that all information in relation to Blue Cards and Exemption Notices is kept confidential • Act to remind employees to keep their Blue Card or Exemption Notice up to date <p>This commitment is evidence of Samford Valley Steiner School fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(f)(ii) of the Regulation.</p>

<p>7. High Risk Management Plan</p>	<p>Samford Valley Steiner School is committed to identifying risks, assessing risks, eliminating and minimising risks and the monitoring of risk to the safety of children on an ongoing basis. Samford Valley Steiner School will utilize various risk management tools to assist it in this process and will keep appropriate records of decisions made and actions taken in relation to risks to children.</p> <p>This commitment is evidence of Samford Valley Steiner School’s fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(g) of the Regulation.</p>
<p>8. Strategies of Communication and Support</p>	<p>Samford Valley Steiner School’s commitment to making this Child Risk Management Strategy available to students, parents and employees via its Employee Handbook, School intranet site and reference on the Enrolment Form is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(h)(i) of the Regulation.</p> <p>Samford Valley Steiner School is committed to training employees in relation to risks to children and will conduct this training regularly via annual formal training events, informal updates at staff meetings and regular discussions between managers and their staff, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(h)(ii) of the Regulation.</p>

APPENDIX 2

IMPLEMENTATION: Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse

Private and Confidential

Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse

Date:
School:
School Phone:
School Fax:

DETAILS OF STUDENT/CHILD HARMED OR AT RISK OF HARM/ABUSE:	
Legal Name:	Preferred Name:
DOB:	Gender:
Year Level:	Cultural Background:
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the student have a disability verified under EAP: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Disability Category:
Student’s Residential Address:	Phone:
	Student’s Personal Mobile:

FAMILY DETAILS	
Parent/caregiver 1:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H): (W): (M):	
Parent/caregiver 2:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H): (W): (M):	
Is the student in out of home care: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

PERSON ALLEGED TO HAVE CAUSED THE HARM OR ABUSE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Child family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Other adult
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/other child	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION YOU HAVE WHICH LED TO THE SUSPICION OF HARM OR ABUSE (Attach extra pages if necessary).
<p>Details of any harm and/or sexual abuse to the student – please include: Time and date of the incident; source of information; details of person alleged to have caused the harm or sexual abuse; physical appearance of any injury; immediate and ongoing safety concerns; any disclosures made by student; any previous incidents of harm; behavioural indicators of harm; presence of any medical needs or developmental delays; and if the information relates to an unborn child, the alleged risk to the unborn child.</p>
<p>Please indicate the identity of anyone else who may have information about the harm or abuse</p>

Additional information provided as an attachment YES NO

Name of staff member making report to the Statutory Agency if not the Director:	Signature:	Date:
Position:		
Director:	Signature:	Date:
Director's email address:		
Response requested by School:		

ACTION TAKEN

Form was faxed or emailed to (please tick which agencies the form was sent to):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Queensland Police Services (QPS)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family and Child Connect

(Adapted from EQ SP-4 Report of Suspected Harm or Risk of Harm)

Confirm receipt of faxed or emailed form and ensure original is stored in a secure location along with any other documentation collected for the purpose of this report.