

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. In the Catholic Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.

We acknowledge that children, young people and adults at risk may require additional safeguards to promote their participation, wellbeing and safety.

Clergy, employees and volunteers are committed to upholding the right to safety of all persons and participating in a creating a culture of safety supported by policies, practices and procedures that strive to prevent abuse in the first instance and to respond appropriately and effectively if abuse does occur. Across the parish, we respect the human dignity of each person and strive to create an inclusive and welcoming Church that enables its people to grow and develop in their faith freely and in a caring and supportive environment.

Safeguarding framework

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne acknowledges that preventing child abuse requires proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices within parishes, agencies and entities consistent with the requirements of the:

- Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme (Commission for Children and Young People, Victoria)
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission)
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Catholic Professional Standards Limited)

In fulfilling this responsibility, the Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework has been developed to guide the implementation of child safety policies, procedures and practices within the parishes, agencies and entities with the aim of promoting the safety of children and young people.

Commitment to the safety of children and young people

The Catholic Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park's Statement of Commitment and Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

A culture of safety within the Church ensures that children and young people can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community.

Commitment to the safety of children and young people

The commitment extends to clergy, employees and volunteers within the parish, regardless of their role or level of responsibility to act to safeguarding children and young people from abuse.

The Catholic Church has a mission-driven moral and legal responsibility to create nurturing environments where children are respected, where their voices are heard, and where they feel safe and are safe.

Please click [here](#) for Parish Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People

Safeguarding responsibilities

Leadership responsibilities

The leadership of each parish is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and relevant procedures and practices to promote the safety of children and young people.

Safeguarding Committee

The Safeguarding Committee's role is to assist the Parish Leadership so that the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy is embedded across the Parish and compliance requirements of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne child-safety standards frameworks. The Safeguarding Committee is an advisory committee only and the legal obligation remains with the leadership of the Parish Priest.

The Catholic Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park established a Safeguarding Committee in November 2020.

CONTACT:

The Safeguarding Committee can be contacted by email at [safeguarding @sj-mc.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@sj-mc.org.au)

Clergy, employees and volunteers

All persons in ministry, working or volunteering within the parish have a moral, legal and ethical responsibility to care for, and promote the wellbeing of children and young people, and protect them from harm or abuse by complying with clear behavioural expectations to act in manner that is caring, respectful and safe toward children and young people. Child safety is a collective responsibility and is best achieved with the involvement of clergy, employees and volunteers working together.

Professional Standards Unit (PSU)

The PSU is responsible for:

- implementing safeguarding practices and processes outlined in the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- strengthening their efforts in relation to child safety by providing support, advice and training
- monitoring and continually improving safeguarding practices and processes
- coordinating the response to allegations and reports of child safety related misconduct and child abuse in relation to clergy, employees and volunteers across the Archdiocese.

Please click [here](#) to see the Parish Safeguarding Responsibilities

Safeguarding children and young people policy

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy:

- Sets out governance structures in relation to our responsibility to safeguard children and young people and ensure that all persons within the parish are aware of their responsibilities with respect to child safety.
- Establishes clear behavioural expectations for the care and protection of children and young people for clergy, employees and volunteers.
- Outlines policies, procedures and strategies to prevent child abuse and keep children and young people safe.
- Provides an overview of processes to respond to and report child abuse or child-safety related misconduct.
- Seeks to inform parents, children and young people of the measures that are in place to prevent and/or respond to safety concerns, reports and allegations.

Please click [here](#) to see the Parish Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Safeguarding Code of Conduct

In seeking to provide safe and enriching environments for children and young people within the parish, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne sets out policies, procedures and practices consistent with the requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (informed by the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations). All parishes need to comply with these child-safety frameworks.

All persons in ministry, working or volunteering with the parish must comply with these processes which include a Working with Children Check, A National Police Check where applicable, reading the Code of Conduct and, signing the Code of

Conduct declaration annually and participating in training programs implemented by the parish. We have a moral, legal and ethical responsibility to care for, and promote the wellbeing of children and young people, and protect them from harm or abuse by complying with clear behavioural expectations to act in manner that is caring, respectful and safe toward children and young people.

Please click [here](#) to see the Parish Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct