

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why is a Protective Behaviour Curriculum important?

Children are among the most vulnerable members of any community and research has shown that explicit teaching of concepts and strategies is an effective way of strengthening the ability of children and young people to recognize danger, seek help and minimize risk.

### Why is Dale Christian College teaching a Protective Behaviours Curriculum?

At Dale Christian College, we place a very high value on the social and emotional wellbeing and development of the students within our care. Each student has the right to feel safe, be respected and to be protected from harm. For this reason, and in line with Government regulations, Dale Christian College has commenced the implementation of a Protective Behaviours Curriculum.

### What Government requirements are in place to mandate the teaching of Protective Behaviours?

The teaching of this Protective Behaviours curriculum is part of the Non-Government School's registration with the Department of Education as stated in:

Registration Standard 10 Preventing and responding to child abuse

- 10.1 The school implements the National Child Safe Organisation Principles
- 10.6 **All students receive a protective behaviours and sexual abuse prevention education which:**
1. *Is developed by experts in child abuse prevention*
  2. *Is age and development-stage appropriate*
  3. *Is culturally appropriate*
  4. *Is integrated into the curriculum of the school and makes relevant subject matter links.*
  5. *Includes e-safety education; and*
  6. *Builds practical self-protective skills and strategies*

### What is the aim of this curriculum?

The aim of this type of curriculum is to educate students in ways to problem solve and seek help when faced with unsafe situations. This is not just about abuse prevention, but about skills that they can use in their everyday life. Many aspects of the curriculum are already being taught in various learning areas of the wider curriculum. In addition to the obvious value in teaching students such skills, the teaching of such a curriculum is mandated by the State Government.

### Why is Dale Christian College using the Keeping Safe Child Protection?

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum was created by the South Australian Government in partnership with the Catholic and Independent schools' sector. It was developed collaboratively with child protection specialists, teachers, education leaders and other professionals. The program is based on the latest research and applies age-appropriate lessons spanning from 3-year-old children to Year 12 students. As such, it is the most comprehensive curriculum of its type, covering a wide range of topics including additional material on current issues such as bullying and cyber safety

### **Does this type of Curriculum teach about sex and sexuality?**

No. These programs are not human sexuality programs. They are designed to equip students with knowledge and strategies to enable them to navigate everyday issues. There is abuse prevention specific material, but this is not to be confused with the teaching of human sexuality.

Dale Christian College uses the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum as a basis for teaching students about the right to be safe, relationships, recognizing and reporting abuse and protective strategies.

### **As a parent, do I need to give my child permission to be in Protective Behaviours classes/sessions?**

As a requirement for the registration of Non-Government Schools, parents' permission is not required; however, we encourage parents/guardians to seek further clarification if required and to provide the teacher with any relevant information about their child that could alleviate any concerns.

