

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION & PROTECTION POLICY

...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14



The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm.

They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

This means that everyone in the church must ensure that the fundamental rights of children are respected. This will be achieved through the development of respectful relationships and a commitment to safety embracing appropriate boundaries, behaviours and practices, in accordance with the Archdiocesan *Code of Ethical Behaviour* and adherence to legislative imperatives of the State.

This policy applies to Clergy, Religious, Staff, Parishioners, Volunteers, students on placement and Visitors to our sites.

In order to support this policy it is mandatory that all Parishes and Agencies of the Archdiocese engage in the following four strategies:

1. safe recruitment and selection practices – helping prevent those who pose a risk to children from holding positions of trust;
2. adhering to the *Code of Ethical Behaviour* – having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable behaviour as an essential part of keeping children safe;
3. operating safe activities for children – can help ensure a safe environment for children;
4. mandatory reporting of harm or suspected harm.

The Archdiocese is committed to safeguarding children through vigilant prevention and protection practices as prescribed by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and legislation.



**Most Rev Mark Coleridge DD
Archbishop of Brisbane**