

SIENA COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL
CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING



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Purpose and Scope

All students enrolled at Siena College have the right to feel safe and be safe. The safety and wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we do not and will not tolerate child abuse. We aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. There is particular attention paid to the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, children who are unable to live at home, international students, and LGBTIQ+ students.

Our commitment to our students

- We commit to the safety and wellbeing of all children, young people and young adults enrolled in our College
- We commit to providing children, young people, and young adults with positive and nurturing experiences
- We commit to listening to children, young people, and young adults and empowering them by ensuring that they understand their rights (including to safety, information, and participation), and by taking their views seriously and addressing any concerns that they raise with us
- We commit to taking action to ensure that children, young people, and young adults are protected from abuse or harm
- We commit to ensuring that the needs of all children, young people, and young adults enrolled in our College are met, including those who are most vulnerable
- We commit to actively supporting all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights
- We commit to recognising the importance of friendships and to encouraging support from peers, to help children, young people, and young adults feel safe and less isolated
- We commit to developing a culture that facilitates and provides opportunities for children, young people, and young adult participation, and that strengthens the confidence and engagement of children, young people and young adults by being responsive to their input
- We commit to teaching children, young people, and young adults the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and maintain their personal safety and wellbeing
- We commit to seeking input and feedback from students regarding the creation of a safe school environment

Our commitment to parents, guardians, and carers

- We commit to communicating honestly and openly with parents, guardians and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children
- We commit to engaging with, and listening to, the views of parents, guardians and carers about our child safety and wellbeing practice, policies, and procedures
- We commit to transparency in our decision-making with parents, guardians, and carers where it will not compromise the safety of children, young people or young adults
- We commit to open engagement and communication with parents, guardians and carers about our child safe approach and our operations and governance related to child safety and wellbeing
- We commit to ensuring that relevant information relating to child safety and wellbeing is accessible to parents, guardians, and carers

Controlled Document:	Date: 01/06/2022	Page 5 of 14
Name of Document:	Revision No.: 3	Authorised by:

SIENA COLLEGE

CAMBERWELL

CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING POLICY



SIENA

COLLEGE

Controlled Document:	Date: 01/06/2022	Page 6 of 14
Name of Document:	Revision No.: 3	Authorised by:



- comply with reporting obligations under the reportable conduct scheme including obligations to report and investigate allegations of reportable conduct

Our College has also established additional internal procedures and processes to help ensure that appropriate action is taken to prevent, identify and respond to concerns about the wellbeing and/or safety of a student.

Our College is a prescribed Information Sharing Entity (ISE) meaning that, where legislated requirements are met, it can share confidential information with other ISEs to promote child wellbeing or safety under the CISS or FVISS.

At Siena College, if any member of our College community has concerns for a child's safety they need to discuss, they can notify the school Principal, the Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy or the College Counsellors.

If the Principal or Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy are not available, then it should be discussed with a member of the College leadership team. Alternatively, any member of the school community may report directly to the responsible authority.

The staff member, supported by the Principal or Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy will follow the step-by-step guide to making a report as outlined in the [Four Critical Actions for Schools: Responding to Incidents, Disclosures and Suspicions of Child Abuse](#).

Controlled Document:	Date: 01/06/2022	Page 7 of 14
Name of Document:	Revision No.: 3	Authorised by:

SIENA COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL



SIENA
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Controlled Document:	Date: 01/06/2022	Page 9 of 14
Name of Document:	Revision No.: 3	Authorised by:

SIENA COLLEGE

CAMBERWELL

CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING POLICY



SIENA

COLLEGE



Guide to responsibilities of school leadership

The Principal, the College Board and school leaders at Siena College recognise their responsibility to ensure the development of preventative and proactive strategies that promote a culture of openness, awareness of and shared responsibility for child safety and wellbeing. Responsibilities include:

- creating an environment for children, young people, and young adults to be safe and to feel safe
- upholding high principles and standards for all staff, clergy, volunteers, and contractors
- promoting models of behaviour between adults and children, young people, and young adults based on mutual respect and consideration
- ensuring thorough and rigorous practices are applied in the recruitment, screening and ongoing professional learning of staff and volunteers
- ensuring that College personnel have regular and appropriate learning to develop their knowledge of openness to and ability to prevent, identify and address child safety and wellbeing matters
- ensuring that the College has in place appropriate risk management strategies and practices that focus on preventing, identifying, and mitigating risks related to child safety and wellbeing in the College environment
- providing regular opportunities to clarify and confirm legislative obligations, policy, and procedures in relation to children, young people, and young adult's protection and wellbeing
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Controlled Document:	Date: 01/06/2022	Page 11 of 14
Name of Document:	Revision No.: 3	Authorised by:



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