Department of Education, Training and Employment
SMS-PR-012 Student Protection
Student Protection Fact Sheet

Mrs Sharon Wilson
Principal

Our school aims to provide the best possible conditions and opportunities for the educational development of the students.

Student protection involves:
- Working to make schools safe and supportive places;
- Taking action to prevent students being harmed at school; and
- Reporting any suspicion you have that a student has been harmed or may be at risk of harm

All children have a right to be protected from harm.

Harm is:
Any detrimental effect of a significant nature to the child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused.
This means anything that will have a serious and harmful effect on a student’s physical health, or how they think and feel about themselves.

All behaviour that harms a student is wrong. Sometimes a culture may have a custom or practice that harms children. Education Queensland policy says that harm to students will not be tolerated. It is NOT OK. In other words, culture or custom is NO EXCUSE for harming students.

Everyone who works in a school must look after the best interests of children.

Managing your own behaviour is the first step in student protection
- NEVER harm a student, either physically, psychologically or emotionally
- NEVER make fun of a student, put them down or discriminate against them because of their race or religion
- NEVER touch a student in a sexual way, or engage in any other inappropriate sexual activity (for example, sending suggestive text messages or showing a student pornography)
- NEVER do anything that would make people think you are doing something sexual to a student

You must report, to the Principal, any harm to a student that is caused by:
- Someone working at the school
- Another student
- Someone from the student’s family, a friend or a stranger
- The student self-harming

If you see harm occurring at school:
1. Help the student, who has been harmed, for example,
   - By telling the students to move away
   - Get a staff member involved as soon as possible
2. Tell the principal straight away about what you have seen
3. Write down what you saw and give the information to the Principal.

If you suspect a student has been harmed at school or outside of school:
1. Tell the principal straight away about what you suspect
2. Write down what you suspect and give the information to the Principal.

If a student tells you that they have been harmed at school or outside of school:
1. Listen carefully
2. Reassure the student that they have done the right thing by telling you
3. Tell the student you must tell the Principal what they have told you
4. Tell the principal straight away about what the student told you
5. Write down what the student told you and give the information to the Principal.

If you suspect the Principal is responsible for causing harm to a student report this to the Executive Director, Schools at the local district office.