



CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

New Norcia Parish and New Norcia as a workplace is actively committed to fostering communities of safeguarding that recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children.

We encourage open communication whereby families, communities and members of groups attending New Norcia for school based activities are informed of relevant issues and participate in decisions about the safety of children. It is of the utmost importance to us here at New Norcia to look for avenues to empower children to have a say and be listened to.

We actively seek to continually become and remain informed of the causes and signs of child abuse and neglect.

When we receive information about concerns or witness any matter relating to abuse of a child, we respond appropriately and report any such concerns to the appropriate authority. This includes contacting the police immediately where there may be immediate risk of harm to any person, especially a child.

Every person within the New Norcia Parish and workplace who comes in contact, or works, with children seeks to uphold the dignity of all children and commits to establishing safe and supportive relationships.

New Norcia Parish and workplace has documented policies and procedures to prevent risks to children and build a strong culture of safeguarding. All Monks, staff and volunteers are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the care and protection of all children.

We plan, organise and review all activities with children, proactively considering potential and strive to ensure risks are reduced, and eliminated where possible. Everyone is encouraged to communicate any area of concern or where our approach may need to be improved.

Anyone who brings forward a suspicion, concerns, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child to the New Norcia Parish or within the workplace will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with our lawful obligations and our own Complaints Handling Policy.

We regularly undertake internal and external auditing of our safeguarding policies and practices to make sure that they always support a culture and practice that puts the safety of children at the centre of our thinking and action.

We listen to the voices of children as we constantly strive to remain vigilant and make improvements.

Our Safe Guarding Officer in the New Norcia Parish is Melissa Victoriano and within the New Norcia workplace Jody Burness.