



Creating a Safe School Environment (Parents of Boarders)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Brisbane Grammar School (**School**) aims to provide a positive and supportive environment where learning and skill development is encouraged and facilitated. The School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students in its care. This brochure outlines the School's policies and procedures for the care and protection of boarding students at the School. It is made available to all parents, guardians and boarding staff to assist in maintaining a safe School environment.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Creating a safe environment for our students is a responsibility which all School staff take very seriously. This brochure aims to ensure that the School community is aware of the School's policies and procedures (full copies of which are available on the School's website).

You or your child should make a report to the Director of Boarding, the Head of Residence, a House Parent or member of the Student Wellbeing Team, if you are aware of or reasonably suspect actual or likely harm to any student (including sexual abuse or self-harm), or in the case of inappropriate behaviour by a staff member.

The members of the Student Wellbeing Team include:

- Deputy Headmaster and Head of Senior School
- Head of Middle School
- Director of Boarding
- Head of Residence
- Harlin House Staff Members
- Heads of Year

You may also contact any other member of the Student Wellbeing Team or Senior Leadership Team with any questions you may have.

WHY HAVE A CHILD PROTECTION AND REPORTING POLICY?

The School is committed to providing a safe environment for its students. As part of this commitment, the School strives to have simple, easily-accessible procedures for reporting harm (including sexual abuse and self-harm) and inappropriate behaviour.

The School has established policies and procedures that accord with best practice and comply with applicable laws about the care and protection of students. These include a *Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy)* and a *Code of Conduct (Staff)*. All staff receive induction and training in these policies and procedures.

The School also delivers a Student Wellbeing Curriculum to all students. This curriculum contains a 'protective behaviours' course which explains the procedures to be followed if any student is faced with an unsafe situation or one which causes them concern. Boarding students also receive safety information through specific lessons in the House Tutor Group program.

The School regularly reviews its policies and procedures to ensure that they continue to reflect best practice and comply with applicable child protection laws.

WHAT BEHAVIOURS ARE UNACCEPTABLE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT?

The School is committed to ensuring that all students are protected from **harm** (including **sexual abuse** or **self-harm**) and **inappropriate behaviour**.



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Harm refers to any detrimental effect of a significant nature on a student's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing, irrespective of cause. Causes of harm may include physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation. Harm may be caused by a single act, omission or circumstance, or by a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Sexual abuse includes sexual behaviour involving a student and another person where: the other person bribes, coerces, exploits, threatens or is violent toward the student; the student has less power than the other person; or there is a significant disparity between the student and the other person in intellectual capacity or maturity.

Self-harm refers to harm perpetrated against one's self. This harm may occur with or without suicidal intent, or may be symptomatic of, or associated with, a medical condition or intellectual disability.

Inappropriate behaviour refers to behaviour of a staff member that another staff member, student or parent considers inappropriate, or any behaviour of a staff member that is grooming behaviour or otherwise inconsistent with School policy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are indicators of harm including sexual abuse?

There are certain physical, emotional and behavioural indicators of risk of student harm, and actual harm. Sexual abuse, for example, can be preceded by grooming behaviour. For more information see the *Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy)*.

How do I report harm or inappropriate behaviour?

You or your child should contact the Director of Boarding, Head of Residence, a House Parent or member of the Student Wellbeing Team if you are aware of or reasonably suspect harm to any student (including sexual abuse or self-harm), or in the case of inappropriate behaviour by a staff member. All staff are trained to handle these matters in accordance with School policies. Your child may also make a report through the Student Wellbeing Register on MyClasses.

What if I report an incident and nothing happens?

If you feel that nothing has happened as a result of your report, please contact the Director of Boarding, Head of Middle School or the Deputy Headmaster and Head of Senior School.

Will reports be kept confidential?

Confidentiality will be observed as far as practicable. However, in some cases the School may be required to disclose information to external authorities (such as Queensland Police Service or Child Safety Services) to comply with applicable child protection legislation.

Will parents be informed about a matter involving their child?

Generally, parents will be informed as soon as practical. The only exception is where the circumstances suggest it would not be in the student's interests to do so. In such a case, the matter will be referred to Queensland Police Service and/or Child Safety Services in accordance with applicable child protection legislation.

How are reports dealt with by the School?

All reports are dealt with in accordance with the School's policies. The School will provide appropriate support to all parties involved, including students, parents and staff.

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Middle School Reception

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