Privacy Policy

Rationale

The Catholic school is a reflection of the Church’s commitment to the dignity of the individual (Mandate para 6). It is important for schools to demonstrate this commitment in the manner in which they protect information that they hold about their school community. The Catholic school requires information about students and their families in order to provide for the education of these students.

The Privacy Act 1988 directs the manner in which private sector organisations, including Catholic schools and systems, manage the personal and sensitive information of individuals.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that organisations, which hold information about individuals, handle that information responsibly. It aims to establish a nationally consistent approach to the management of personal information.

Definitions

Personal Information is information which can identify an individual. Sensitive Information is information about a person’s religious and political beliefs, sexual preferences, cultural, racial or ethnic origin, membership of political associations, philosophical beliefs, criminal record or health information.

Principles

- St Mary’s School has a responsibility to use and manage personal and sensitive information collected, in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988.
- St Mary’s School has a responsibility to inform individuals of the purpose of collecting personal and sensitive information.
- All information is collected for the primary purpose of the Catholic education of the student.
Privacy Collection Notice

1. The School (the Diocese both independently and through its Schools) collects personal information, including sensitive information about pupils and parents or guardians before and during the course of a pupil’s enrolment at the School. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable the School to provide schooling for your son/daughter.

2. Some of the information we collect is to satisfy the School’s legal obligations, particularly to enable the School to discharge its duty of care.

3. Certain laws governing or relating to the operation of schools require that certain information is collected. These include Public Health, School Education Act 1999 and Child Protection laws, including The Children and Community Services Act 2004.

4. Health information about pupils is sensitive information within the terms of the National Privacy Principles under the Privacy Act. We ask you to provide medical reports about pupils from time to time.

5. If we do not obtain the information referred to above we may not be able to enrol or continue the enrolment of your son/daughter.

6. The School from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative and educational purposes. This includes to other schools, government departments, government agencies, statutory boards, the Catholic Education Office, the Catholic Education Commission, your local diocese and the parish and/or schools within other Catholic Dioceses. Information is also disclosed to government authorities such as Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), medical practitioners, and people providing services to the School, including specialist visiting teachers, [sports] coaches, volunteers and counsellors. 6a. In addition to the agencies and purposes cited at 6 above personal information relating to students and parents may also be made available, in accordance with Australian Government requirements, to ACARA for the purpose of publishing certain aggregated school information relating to the circumstances of parents and students on the MySchool website.

7. The School from time to time may also collect and disclose personal information about current or prospective students in accordance with the School Education Act 1999 and Children and Community Services Act 2004.

8. Personal information collected from pupils is regularly disclosed to their parents or guardians.
9. Parents may seek access to personal information collected about them and their son/daughter by contacting the School. Pupils may also seek access to personal information about them. However, there will be occasions when access is denied. Such occasions would include where access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, where access may result in a breach of the School’s duty of care to the pupil, or where pupils have provided information in confidence.

10. As you may know the School from time to time engages in fundraising activities. Information received from you may be used to make an appeal to you. It may also be disclosed to organisations that assist in the School's fundraising activities solely for that purpose. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for their own marketing purposes without your consent.

11. On occasions information such as academic and sporting achievements, pupil activities and similar news is published, in both hard and digital copy, in School newsletters and magazines and on our website.

12. We may include your contact details in a class list and School directory.

13. If you provide the School with the personal information of others, such as doctors or emergency contacts, we encourage you to inform them that you are disclosing that information to the School and why, that they can access that information if they wish and that the School does not usually disclose the information to third parties.