

Child Safety - What do I do?

Red Rock Christian College believes all children are fearfully and wonderfully made and therefore is committed to promoting and protecting at all times the safety and wellbeing of children involved in its community. All those entrusted with the care of children and young people have a duty of care to ensure their safety and at Red Rock, this includes having a zero tolerance for child abuse.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is an act which endangers a child or young person's physical or emotional health or development. There are different types of abuse:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

The Effects of Child Abuse often include significant physical and psychological problems. The longer the abuse goes on the more severe the effects.

How do I recognise Child Abuse?

The symptoms of child abuse are many and varied. Below is a list of some of the symptoms that may be evidence of abuse. However, the presence of these symptoms may also be signs of other issues not related to child abuse.

Visit www.dhs.vic.gov for a more extensive list of possible symptoms of child abuse:

- burns, bruises, fractures, bits
- fatigue, falling asleep in class
- distrust, fearfulness, excessive friendliness toward strangers, withdrawn, anxious
- problems with school work
- overly aware of sexual matters for age
- poor hygiene, frequent hunger, stealing food
- overly passive or aggressive
- significant changes in behaviour

What do I do if I'm concerned for myself or someone else?

If you are concerned about abuse for yourself or someone else, you can get support.

Talk to an adult you trust or even more than one adult.

This might be a family member, a teacher or a friend's parent.

Talk to any adult you feel safe with.

If you see someone at school being harmed:

- get a teacher or staff member involved straight away
- write down what you saw and give the information to the principal

Who can I talk to at school?

The Child Safety Officers are:

Mrs Karen McCoy – Principal

Mrs Sharon Garro – Psychologist

Or talk to **ANY** staff member you feel comfortable with.

Where else can I get help?

There are services you can contact to access more information or to talk to someone about your concerns.

National Child Abuse Helpline (Child Wise)

Phone: 1800 991 099

This is a toll-free number with access to expert advice from trained counsellors.

Kids Helpline

Phone: 1800 551 800

24 hrs a day, 7 days a week – free online counselling

Headspace (National Youth Mental Health Foundation)

Phone: 1800 650 890

<http://headspace.org.au>

For those 12 years or over.

Call the police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for your own or someone else's safety.