



Privacy Policy

Introduction:

St Patrick's Primary School recognises that the protection of an individual's privacy is important and is a requirement of the [Australian Privacy Principles \(APPs\)](#) contained in the [Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 \(Cth\)](#). This Policy has been created to ensure that all personal, health or sensitive information provided to, collected or generated by the School is used and managed in accordance with the APPs. The school also acknowledges its responsibility to notify the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) where personal information is lost or subjected to unauthorised access, modification, disclosure or misuse in accordance with the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme (NDBS 2018).

The School will, from time to time, review and update this Privacy Policy to take account of new laws and technology, changes to the School's operations and practices and to make sure it remains appropriate to the changing school environment.

Definitions:

Personal information: is information or opinion, whether true or not, about a person whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion – that is recorded in any form. For example, a person's name, address, phone number and date of birth (age). De-identified information about students can also be personal information.

Health information: is information or opinion about a person's physical, mental or psychological health or disability, that is also personal information – whether in writing or not. This includes information or opinion about a person's health status and medical history, immunisation status and allergies, as well as counselling records.

Sensitive information: is information or opinion about a set of specific characteristics, including a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions or affiliations, religious beliefs or affiliations, philosophical beliefs, sexual preferences or practices; or criminal record. It also includes health information.

Data Breach: occurs where personal information is lost or subjected to unauthorised access, modification, disclosure or misuse in accordance with the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme (NDBS 2018).

Scope:

This policy applies to all permanent, fixed term and casual employees at St Patrick's Primary School, teaching & non-teaching. It also extends to contractors and volunteers engaged to undertake work on behalf of the school.



Responsibilities:

School's Responsibility:

The school Principal & Members of the Leadership Team have a responsibility to:

- » Collect, use and manage personal, health & sensitive information in accordance with processes outlined in this policy;
- » Ensure all employees and other relevant individuals are aware of the school's Privacy Policy;
- » Promptly & appropriately intervene when they become aware of a breach of this policy;
- » Report any Data Breach that has the potential to cause *serious harm* to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC);
- » Comply with legislative requirements.

Employee Responsibilities:

- » Familiarise themselves with this policy;
- » Collect, use and manage personal, health & sensitive information in accordance with processes outlined in this policy;
- » Report any Data Breach to the Principal or a member of the Leadership Team immediately upon becoming aware of any event.

The Kinds Of Personal Information The School Collects And How The School Collects It:

The type of information St Patrick's Primary School collects and manages includes (but is not limited to) personal information, including health and other sensitive information relating to:

- » Information about students and their family, provided by students, their family and others;
- » Information about job applicants, staff member, volunteers and visitors; provided by job applicants, staff members, volunteers, visitors and others.
- » Religion and involvement in the Parish, its groups, activities and works.

Personal information you provide: St Patrick's Primary School will generally collect personal information through:

- » Electronic and paper documentation: including job applications, emails, invoices, enrolment forms, letters to our school, consent forms (for example: enrolment, excursion, Student Support Services consent forms), the school website or school-controlled social media;
- » Face-to-face meetings, interviews, telephone calls;
- » Through online tools: such as apps, intranet, portals and other software used by our school.

From time to time, the School may seek the consent of parents/guardians to use their child's name, image and likeness in materials produced or published by or for the School (including newsletters, magazines, posters and other advertising materials to promote the School and its services). Where parents/guardians do not consent to their child's name, image and likeness being used by the School in this manner, the School will refrain from using their child's name, image and likeness.



Personal information provided by other people: In some circumstances the School may be provided with personal information about an individual from a third party, for example a report provided by a medical professional or a reference from another school.

Exception in relation to employee records: In accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), the Australian Privacy Principles do not apply to an employee record. As a result, this Privacy Policy does not apply to the School's treatment of an employee record unless required by law or organisational policy where the treatment is directly related to a current or former employment relationship between the School and employee. The School also handles staff health records in accordance with the Health Privacy Principles in the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic.).

How The School Uses Personal Information That You Provide:

St Patrick's Primary School generally only uses personal information for the primary purpose for which the information was collected or a secondary purpose when permitted by the Privacy Act. Generally, the School collects personal information for the purpose of facilitating its ability to function as an educational institution.

Students & Parents:

In relation to personal information of Students and Parents, the primary purpose of collection is to enable the School to provide educational and support services for the student. This includes satisfying the needs of Parents, the needs of the pupil and the needs of the School throughout the whole period the student is enrolled at the School.

The purposes for which the School uses personal information of Students and Parents include:

- » Keeping parents informed about matters related to their child's schooling & school events through correspondence, newsletters, magazines, e-news, online tools such as apps, intranet, portals and other software used by the school.
- » Day-to-day administration of the School;
- » Ensuring students' educational, social and medical wellbeing;
- » Addressing queries or resolving complaints;
- » To satisfy the School's legal obligations and allow the School to discharge its duty of care;
- » To comply with the requirements of government authorities and similar organisations;
- » To engage in fundraising and marketing activities for the School and Parish;
- » To keep Parents informed about matters relating to the Parish, its groups, activities and work.

In some cases where the School requests personal information about a pupil or Parent, if the information requested is not provided, the School may not be able to enrol or continue the enrolment of the pupil or permit the pupil to take part in a particular activity.



Job Applicants and Contractors:

In relation to personal information of job applicants and contractors, the School's primary purpose of collection is to assess and (if successful) to engage the applicant, or contractor, as the case may be.

The purposes for which the School uses personal information of job applicants and contractors include:

- » Administering the individual's employment or contract;
- » For screening purposes;
- » For insurance purposes;
- » Seeking funding and marketing for the School;
- » Satisfying the School's legal obligations, eg, with relation to child safety standards and child protection legislation.

Volunteers: St Patrick's Primary School also obtains personal information about volunteers who assist the School in its functions or conduct associated activities. This may include copies of their Working With Children Check (WWCC), reference checks, codes of conduct for activities such as assisting in the classroom at sporting events, attending excursions, camps, parent association activities etc...

Marketing And Fundraising: The School treats marketing and seeking donations for the future growth and development of the School as an important part of ensuring that the School continues to provide a quality learning environment in which both pupils and staff thrive. Personal information held by the School may be disclosed to organisations that assist in the School's fundraising, for example, the School's Parent's Association or alumni organisation or, on occasions, external fundraising organisations.

Parents, staff, contractors and other members of the wider School community may from time to time receive fundraising information. School publications, like newsletters and magazines, which include personal information, may be used for marketing purposes.

Who might the School disclose personal information to?:

St Patrick's Primary School may disclose personal information, including sensitive information, held about an individual to:

- » School service providers, including the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, (CECV);
- » Third party service providers that provide educational support services to schools and school systems;
- » Specialty visiting teachers, counsellors, sports coaches and other dioceses;
- » Online tools such as apps, intranet, portals and other software service providers used by the school;
- » Government departments;
- » Another school to facilitate the transfer of a student;
- » Medical practitioners;
- » Recipients of School publications, such as newsletters and online school spaces;
- » Anyone you authorise the School to disclose information to;



- » Anyone to whom the school is required or authorised to disclose the information to by law such as the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Commission of Children and Young People, Victoria Police;
- » The Parish to enable it to build community and to support the work of the Parish.

Sending Information Overseas:

The School will not send personal information about individuals associated with the school outside of Australia without:

- » Obtaining consent of the individual;
- » Otherwise complying with the Australian Privacy Principles (APP) or other applicable privacy legislation.

The School may also store information by way of electronic cloud, in which case it may be stored on servers outside of Australia.

Treating Sensitive Information:

In referring to 'sensitive information', the School means: information relating to a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religion, trade union or other professional or trade association membership, philosophical beliefs, sexual orientation or practices or criminal record, that is also personal information; health information and biometric information about an individual.

Sensitive information will be used and disclosed only for the purpose for which it was provided or a directly related secondary purpose, unless you agree otherwise, or the use or disclosure of the sensitive information is allowed by law.

Management and security of personal information:

St Patrick's Primary School staff members are required to respect the confidentiality of Student and Parental personal information and the privacy of individuals.

The School will take reasonable steps to protect personal information it holds from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure by use of various methods including locked storage of paper records and password access rights to computerised records. Where information is passed to external organisations or service provider acting on the school's behalf, adequate privacy safeguards will be implemented prior to the release of any information.

Notifiable Data Breach Scheme (NDBS)

In accordance with [Section 26 of the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988](#); St Patrick's Primary School will immediately report any Eligible Breach of Data immediately to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).

Eligible Data Breach occurs when personal information is lost or subject to unauthorised access, modification, disclosure, misuse or interference. Where a data breach has occurred and it is likely to result in 'serious harm' (physical, psychosocial, emotional, economic, financial harm or reputation damage) notification to the OAIC is required.



Where the school suspects or believes that an Eligible Data Breach has occurred, the school will within 30 days conduct a risk assessment to determine the contributing factors and anticipated degree of harm to determine if the breach is 'eligible'. Examples of breaches which may be 'eligible' for notification may include:

- » Loss or theft of a laptop or other device containing personal information of students or staff members;
- » Hacking of databases containing personal information;
- » The provision of personal information to the wrong person.

When a Breach of Data has been identified as 'eligible' the school will prepare and submit a Data Breach Statement to the OAIC as soon as is practical. This statement will include all relevant information; including:

- » A description of the breach;
- » The type of information involved in the breach (personal, health, sensitive, financial);
- » Anticipated degree of harm;
- » Recommended actions for notifying those affected;
- » Recommended actions to prevent reoccurrence;

For further information, refer to the St Patrick's Primary School's Notifiable Data Breach Procedure.

Updating Personal Information:

St Patrick's Primary School endeavours to ensure that the personal information it holds is accurate, complete and up-to-date. Any person may seek to update their personal information held by the School by contacting the School's Administration Officer at any time.

The Australian Privacy Principles require the School to store personal information no longer than necessary.

Checking Personal Information Held by the School:

In accordance with the [Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 \(Cth\)](#) and the [Victorian Health Records Act 2001](#), individuals have the right to obtain access to any personal information and health records relevant to them and to advise the School of any perceived inaccuracy. There are some exceptions to this under the relevant Acts, including limitations in access by employees to their records. Students will generally be able to access and update their personal information through their parents.

Contact may be made with the school's Administration Officer to make a request to access any information the school holds relating to you or your child. The School may require you to verify your identity and specify what information you require.



Consent and rights of access to personal information of (current) students :

St Patrick's Primary School respects every Parent's right to make decisions concerning their child's education.

Generally, the School will direct any request for consent and notices in relation to the personal information of a student, to the student's Parents. The School will treat consent given by Parents as consent given on behalf of the student, and notice to Parents will act as notice given to the student.

Parents may seek access to personal information held by the School about them or their child by contacting the School's Principal. However, there may be occasions when access is denied, such as where release of the information would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others or where the release may result in a breach of the School's duty of care to the student.

The School may, at its discretion, on the request of a pupil grant that pupil access to information held by the School about them, or allow a pupil to give or withhold consent to the use of their personal information, independently of their Parents. This would normally be done only when the maturity of the pupil and/or the pupil's personal circumstances warrant it.

Past students have the right to request access to any personal information held about them by the school with consideration given to the relevant APPs. Any such requests must be made to the school Principal.

In addition to the above, the School may from time to time refuse an individual access to the information the School holds about the individual, in accordance with the relevant legislation. Where the School refuses access, the School will give an explanation for the refusal in writing.

Enquiries or Complaints

Individuals that would like further information about the way the School manages personal information or wish to complain as they believe that the School has breached the Australian Privacy Principles (APP) please contact the Principal via principal@xxxxxx.catholic.edu.au or (03) 9583 5033. The School will investigate any complaint and will provide a response to the complainant as soon as is practical.

The School reserves the right to refuse to investigate and deal with a complaint if the School considers it to be vexatious or frivolous.

Breaches of this Policy

St Patrick's Primary School expects that all permanent, fixed term and casual employees who become aware of a breach of this policy will advise the Principal or a Member of the Leadership Team immediately.

The school will consider each breach of this policy in the context in which it has occurred and will determine the significance of the breach. Where the breach is deemed 'eligible' in accordance



with the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme, the school will inform the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).

A serious breach may result in disciplinary action, in termination of employment.

References:

Commonwealth Government 1988, *Privacy Act*;

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) 2014, Australian Privacy Principals;

Victorian Department of Education & Training 2018, Information & Privacy Guidelines;

Victorian Government 2001, *Health Records Act*;