



## *St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School*

Wednesday 02 August 2023

Dear Parents,

Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) schools are Christ-centered and child-focused learning communities that support each child to develop to their full God-given potential. Key to this is ensuring the learning environment is engaging, supportive and safe. All members of our school share the responsibility for creating and maintaining this healthy culture. By working together, we can ensure all children flourish in a safe and healthy environment.

Recognising that each child has the right to be heard is an important element in the CEWA Child Safe framework. At St Cecilia's we teach students that they have the right to be safe and we empower them with the language, skills and strategies to assist in their safety by talking to people that they trust. It is a requirement that all students receive a protective behaviours and sexual abuse prevention education (10.6 Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools).

At St Cecilia's we implement the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC) which is an evidence-based child safety curriculum that teaches children to recognise abuse, tell a trusted adult when they have concerns, understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching and ways of keeping themselves safe. In Health and Physical Education, our learning will be based on the two main curriculum themes of:

- We all have the right to be safe
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust.

The themes are presented through four Focus Areas:

1. The right to be safe
2. Relationships
3. Recognising and reporting abuse
4. Protective strategies

Beginning in Week Three of this term, all year levels will be focusing on all four focus areas. As part of this teaching and learning, students will learn the correct anatomical names for all parts of the body, including breasts, vagina, vulva, penis, testicles and bottom. We will reinforce that they are in charge of their whole body and no one has the right to touch them without their permission.

Teaching children anatomically correct terms promotes positive body image, self-confidence, and parent-child communication; discourages perpetrators; and, in the event of abuse, helps children and adults navigate the disclosure and forensic interview process (National Sexual Violence Resource Centre, 2013). It makes communication clearer because they can tell someone and importantly, it communicates that the adults can hear about that part of the body from a child, and that it's not something embarrassing or shameful that you have to hide (American Academy of Paediatrics Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2013).

St Cecilia's school relies on strong partnerships with you, as parents and carers, to provide your child with the best possible learning and development opportunities. Working together we can ensure all children and young people flourish in a safe and healthy environment. To support this partnership, and to help with any discussions or questions that may arise at home, messages will be sent via Seesaw on the morning of your child's Health class explaining the content of the lesson for that day.

If you have any further questions about this information, or the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum in general, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Mandy Sheen  
Principal

*Faith Family Friendship*