SIENA COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL
CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING POLICY

POLICY TITLE:

DEFINITIONS

child	A child who is under the age of 14 years.

college staff	An individual working in the College environment who is: x directly engaged or employed by a school governing authority x a contracted service provider engaged by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) engaged to perform child-related work for Siena College x a minister of religion, a religious leader or an employee or officer of a religious body associated with MACS (Ministerial Order No. 1359)
volunteer	A person who performs work without remuneration or reward for Siena College in the College environment.

PRINCIPLES / GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Catholic schools have a moral, legal, and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing school environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard, and they are safe and feel safe (CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety).

The following principles underpin our commitment to child safety and wellbeing at Siena College:

- x All students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety, and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect
- x Our College works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on child safety and wellbeing and protection
- x All students have the right to a thorough and systematic education in all aspects of personal safety, in partnership with their parents/guardians/carers
- x All adults in our College, including teaching and non-teaching staff, clergy, volunteers, and contractors, have a responsibility to care for children and young people, to positively promote their wellbeing, to identify and mitigate risks related to child safety and wellbeing in the College environment and to protect them from any kind of harm or abuse
- x The policies, guidelines, and codes of conduct for the care, wellbeing and protection of students are based on honest, respectful, and trusting relationships between adults and children and young people
- x Policies and practices demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements and cooperation with the Church, governments, the police, and human services agencies
- x All persons involved in situations where harm is suspected or disclosed must be treated with sensitivity, dignity, and respect
- x All members of the College community (including students and their families) are kept informed of child safety and wellbeing matters (where appropriate) and are involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
- x Staff, clergy, volunteers, contractors, parents, and students should feel free to raise concerns about child safety and wellbeing, knowing these will be taken seriously by College leadership
- x Appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, with information being provided to those who have a right or a need to be informed, either legally (including under legislated information sharing schemes being Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) or Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS)) or pastorally

- We commit to acknowledging the cultural diversity of students and families and being sensitive to how this may impact on student safety issues
- We commit to continuously reviewing and improving our systems to protect children from abuse

Our commitment to our College staff (College employees, volunteers, contractors, and clergy]y2act.743.07

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Controlled Document:	Date: