

May our children flourish

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



St Thomas More Hadfield Parish

strives to create an environment where children are safe, respected and cared for

<p>We have appointed a Parish Professional Standards Coordinator who can be contacted on 0416027413 or 9357 1422 for assistance with any child safety issues.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We have a child safety policy called “May our children flourish - Code of Conduct for Caring for Children”.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We have a parish code of conduct that clearly states the expectations we have of all adults in their dealings with our children. You can obtain a copy from our Parish Professional Standards Coordinator.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We have a Working with Children Check and where appropriate a Police Check for all the priests, employees and volunteers who assist in the parish, as required legally or by the protocols of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, besides using other screening tools such as reference checking and online searches.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We conduct an annual audit of the currency of the Working with Children Checks of all our clergy, employees and volunteers who assist in the parish.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We require our clergy and Parish Professional Standards Coordinator to undertake annual training in child safety issues.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We have a clear process for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse as required by law and as detailed in “May our children flourish - Code of Conduct for Caring for Children”.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We teach our children they have a right to feel safe, how to help keep themselves safe and how to respond if ever they feel unsafe.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We are mindful that the children of our parish come from different cultural and linguistic (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) backgrounds and all have different abilities and gifts. We will be sensitive to their different needs in how we relate to them.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We constantly review our physical environment, our parish practices and our employees’ and volunteers’ attitudes to the safety of our children. Our goal is to identify and continuously strive to reduce or remove all risks to our children.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We seek to empower children to speak out if ever they feel unsafe.</p>	<p>✓</p>

