Rationale

Dignity, safety and well being of people are central to the Church’s teaching. St Monica’s School acknowledges this and recognizes that it is obligated under the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 to ensure the health and safety of each of its workers at work. Additionally, it is obligated to ensure other persons are not exposed to risks to their health and safety arising out of the conduct of school business or undertakings.

The purpose of this policy is to assist in developing, promoting and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment and to provide a basis on which a sound occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS) is built. Through such properly established and implemented systems, students, staff, contractors, and other persons with a legal right to be on school premises, will comply with requirements of the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995.

Values

Care and concern for the health, safety and welfare of people using school facilities.

Definition

Occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS).

That part of the overall management system which includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the OH&S policy, and so managing the risks associated with the business of the organisation.

AS/NZS 4801 – 2001
Policy Statement

St Monica’s School will ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees, students, and other persons who are legally present on school premises, and develop, promote, and maintain a safe and healthy working environment in which the risk of injury or illness for persons coming on to the premises is minimised.

To achieve these aims St Monica’s School will develop and implement an OHSMS based on preventive risk management principles. This school is committed to both improving safety culture and continuous improvement of health and safety programs. As part of OHSMS implementation, responsibilities and accountability of the various personnel will be clearly defined, consultative mechanisms established, measurable objective and targets set, and adequate training provided in collaboration with the Toowoomba Catholic education Office. St Monica’s School will endeavour to adequately resource OHSMS implementation through a budget allocation integrated with other management functions. Monitoring and review of OHS issues will be undertaken through an annual audit, using an electronic audit tool.

Guidelines:

- Compliance with all workplace health and safety statutory requirements, Queensland Codes of Practice, Advisory Standards and relevant Australian Standards as a minimum
- Quality OHSMS implementation
- Improved OHS outcomes including a safer and healthier environment, and an improved safety culture.
- Health and safety performance data collection and analysis
- The health and safety policy being available as required to regulatory authorities suppliers, contractors, customers and those visiting the school
- Various moral, ethical and legal obligations met