



Reporting Abuse and Other Harm of Students

Although Mandatory Reporting to DCJ in NSW applies only to children under the age of 16, Voluntary Reports to DCJ can be made about young people aged 16 and 17 who are at risk of significant harm.

It is the College's policy that, in addition to their Mandatory Reporting obligations, Mandatory Reporters at the College who:

- have reasonable grounds to suspect
- that a young person aged 16 or 17 attending the College
- is at risk of significant harm

must make a report to DCJ under section 24 of the Act.

However, wherever possible, this should be done with the consent of the young person.

It is also the College's policy that all child safety incidents and concerns involving a student, including those involving students aged 16 and over, must be reported internally.

Therefore, any knowledge or reasonable grounds to suspect abuse or other harm to a young person should be reported both internally and to DCJ as soon as practicable.

Knowledge or suspicions of abuse or other harm of a student aged 18 years or older cannot be reported to DCJ. These should be reported to the NSW Police if appropriate, provided that the student consents to the report.

Voluntary Reporting by Non-Mandatory Reporters

Anyone who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm can make a Voluntary Report to DCJ. You do not need to prove that the abuse, neglect or grooming has taken place.

If you make a report in good faith, you cannot be held legally liable regardless of the outcome of the report.

Even if you are not a Mandatory Reporter to DCJ under child protection legislation, you may still be required to make an external report to other agencies under other legislation.

When to Make a Voluntary Report to DCJ

It is the College's policy that, where a Voluntary Report is to be made, it must be made without delay as soon as the reasonable grounds to suspect that the child or young person is at risk of significant harm arose. This must be done regardless of any other action you take in relation to the child or

young person.

What if I am unsure if I have a reasonable ground to suspect or if the risk of harm is ‘significant’?

If you are concerned that a student may be experiencing abuse or other harm, or their safety may be at risk, but you are unsure whether your concern rises to the level of ‘reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of significant harm’, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of the College’s Child Safeguarding Officers.

Our Child Safeguarding Officers are able to assist you in clarifying your concerns and managing the next steps. Contact details for our Child Safeguarding Officers are set out here.

Name	Position	Contact No.	Email Address
Patrick Brennan	Deputy Principal - Student & Staff Wellbeing	93690713	pbrennan@waverley.nsw.edu.au
Gabrielle Smith	Deputy Principal - Teaching & Learning	93690604	gsmith@waverley.nsw.edu.au
Gabrielle Bransby	Director of Junior School	93690770	gbransby@waverley.nsw.edu.au

Where a Mandatory Reporter has any concerns that a child or young person has been or is at risk of being abused or otherwise harmed, you can use the Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG) to determine whether or not those concerns reach the Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) threshold.

The MRG can be accessed here: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/mrg>

How to make a Voluntary Report

If you suspect on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is suffering abuse or other harm, or you wish to discuss your concerns about a child or young person, you can call the Child Protection Helpline on 132 111 or 1800 212 936 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

If you need to report an offence that requires immediate Police attention, call the Police on 000.

For more information, support or advice on reporting you can contact a College Child Safeguarding Officer, the Principal, or the Child Protection Helpline on 132 111 or 1800 212 936.