INTRODUCTION

St Joseph’s School is a place of learning. As such, students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach in an environment that is safe and supportive.

Dignity, safety and well being of people are central to the Church’s teaching. St. Joseph’s School acknowledges this and recognizes its responsibility to ensure the health and safety of each of its workers at work and the students who are enrolled. The school also recognizes the recent developments in an understanding of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (OHS) issues.

The recent legislation directly concerning OHS is contained in the Queensland Workplace, Health and Safety Act 1995. This policy is to assist the school in developing, promoting and maintaining a safe and healthy working and learning environment, and to provide a basis on which a sound occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS) is built.

RATIONALE

MISSION STATEMENT

“St. Joseph’s School offers an holistic education within a Catholic Christian environment whilst developing and valuing the uniqueness of the individual as we encourage each student to become a life long learner.”

The mission statement of St. Joseph’s School stresses the idea of “education within a Catholic Christian environment”, which implies that there is a need for a safe and healthy work and learning environment. “Valuing the uniqueness of the individual” means that issues of health and safety are significant to all students and workers at the school.
Ensuring that the St Joseph’s learning environment is safe and healthy therefore critical to the successful fulfillment of our mission.

**GOSPEL VALUES**

Respect, personal dignity, justice, honesty, care, compassion, responsibility, cooperation, collaboration, justice

**DEFINITIONS**

**Policy** – the St Joseph’s OHS policy is a statement expressing the commitment of the school to workplace safety.

**Management System** – the process whereby risk management identification and strategies are established and integrated into other management functions in the school.

**Audit** – a framework for the identification of health and safety issues concerning policy, planning, implementation, measurement and valuation and review.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

St Joseph’s School, as part of the wider Christian community, is committed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees, students, parents, volunteers and other persons who are legally present on the school premises. This involves a commitment to provide facilities which offer a healthy and safe environment, and the development of a culture which promotes such an environment which minimizes the risk of injury or illness. This also entails the promotion of a sense of responsibility for all to show reasonable attention to the health and safety of themselves and others.

**CONSEQUENCES**

- the school management will, in collaboration with TCEO, provide a healthy & safe educational environment for learning
- St Joseph’s School will abide by the Health & Safety Management System as developed by the TCEO
- All staff and students will be required to operate in a manner that supports the management system and the school’s efforts to support it
- The school will appoint a WHSO officer and a Rehabilitation officer, according to the legislation
- The school will inservice staff and students on issues as necessary
- The school will develop an annual WHS plan undertake an annual audit of this plan according to the specifications in the Management System