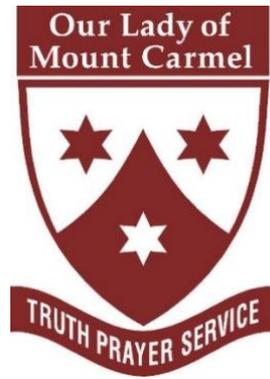


# Our Lady of Mount Carmel School



## **Occupational Safety & Health in Schools Policy 2-C14**

## RATIONALE

Dignity, safety and well-being of people are central to the Church's teaching. The Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) acknowledges this and recognises that it is obligated under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act (WA) 1984 (the OSH Act)* to ensure the safety and health of all school-based workplace participants. Therefore, (insert school name) endeavours to:

- ensure the safety, health and welfare of all employees, students, their parents, community members and other persons who are legally present on school premises. School premises include places away from a school campus such as a campsite or where school excursions may take place from time to time
- develop, promote, and maintain a safe and healthy working environment that seeks to minimise the risk of injury or illness for such people
- create a culture of safety that precipitates the development, maintenance and promotion of a healthy working environment

## DEFINITION

Nil

## PRINCIPLES

1. According to the provisions of the *OSH Act*, and the *Code of Ethical Conduct*, (insert school name) has a legal and ethical responsibility to put in place procedures and processes to develop, promote and maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all members of staff including teachers, students, their parents, guardians, caregivers, community members and other persons who are legally present on school premises.
2. When engaged in workplace activities, all school employees are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety. Further, they have a responsibility to avoid situations and practices that may precipitate danger to the health and safety of others (including acts or omissions).
3. In accordance with the *OSH Act*, an employee may give notice to the employer requiring the election of a safety and health representative. The OSH representative(s) may be member(s) of the teaching and/or non-teaching staff.
4. School-based OSH representatives must be elected to their position in accordance with the *OSH Act*.
5. As school-based OSH representatives are not OSH managers, they are not liable for accidents/incidents that occur in the workplace.

## SCHOOL PROCEDURES

1. All school employees are required to:
  - follow the principal's health and safety instructions
  - appropriately utilise personal protective clothing and equipment where appropriate (i.e. as intended)
  - take care of and appropriately maintain equipment
  - report suspected or actual hazards to the school-based OSH representative and/ or principal
  - immediately report work-related injuries or near miss or concerning incidents to the school-based OSH representative and/or principal and complete requisite paperwork
  - cooperate with the principal, members of the school management team, the school-based OSH representative and whole-of-school OSH committee members to enable the employer to execute its obligation under the *OSH Act*
  
2. Any person employed by the school may request the election of a school-based OSH representative. All employees are eligible to be elected. A person who is elected as an OSH representative is elected for a period up to 2 years.
  
3. The OSH representative is entitled to paid time off to attend the compulsory Catholic Education Office training course.
  
4. To meet the employer's obligations under the *OSH Act*, the principal shall work collaboratively with the school-based OSH representative(s) to form a whole-of-school OSH committee. Membership of this committee will vary from school to school and will depend upon many factors including staff size and student numbers. At a minimum, the committee should consist of:
  - the principal or a delegated representative (e.g. an Assistant or Deputy Principal)
  - the school-based OSH representative(s)
  - a member(s) of staff
  - a parent / school board representative

5. As detailed in the *OSH Act, WorkSafe Guidelines and the AS/NZ Standards 4360:2004 Risk Management and AS/NZ Standards 4801:2001 Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems*, school-based OSH representatives have the following functions:

- carry out regular workplace inspections
- immediately carry out an appropriate investigation of any accident, near miss or concerning incident to any person engaged in work or study at the school premises
- keep abreast of safety and health information provided by the employer and relevant external bodies (e.g. WorkSafe)
- liaise as necessary with WorkSafe, the Department of Industry and Resources and other relevant Government or private bodies
- consult and cooperate with the employer on all matters relating to workplace safety and health
- liaise with employees regarding work-based safety and health issues
- champion and promote a culture of safety amongst all school participants including the principal, members of the management team, students, their parents, guardians, caregivers and community members
- immediately report any potential or actual hazard that poses a danger to the safety and health of staff, students, community members or visitors to the school to the principal
- issue provisional improvement notices (PINs) where they believe existence of a breach of *the OSH Act* or Regulations. A PIN is similar to an improvement notice issued by a WorkSafe inspector, except for its “provisional” nature. Before issuing a PIN, the school-based OSH representative must liaise with the principal to discuss the issue. These discussions must canvass risk assessment of the identified hazard and control measure options. The principal shall take appropriate corrective action upon receipt of a PIN.

6. In accordance with the OSH Act there are penalties for breaches of the OSH Act. Penalties may be applied to employers, persons having control of premises and employees.

7. The principal shall inform Worksafe and the Workforce Relations Team if an employee or a person at the school who is not an employee incurs an injury or disease at the school premises that results in the death of the employee or person.