

## Child Risk Management Strategy

<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this strategy is to eliminate and minimise risk to student safety to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students attending The River School and Early Childcare Centre.	
<b>Scope</b>	Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, parents, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.	
<b>Responsibility</b>	School Principal	
<b>References</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 (Cth)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2018 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland)</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Related Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Education and Care Services National Regulations</a></li> <li>• Blue Card Services <a href="#">Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy Toolkit</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Restricted Person Declaration Form</a></li> <li>• The River School Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• The River School Work Health and Safety Policy</li> <li>• The River School Code of Conduct</li> <li>• The River School Complaints Handling Policy</li> <li>• The River School Complaints Handling Procedure</li> </ul>	
<b>Status</b>	Approved by AMEL Board 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	<b>Supersedes:</b> Child Risk Management Strategy 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
<b>Last Review Date</b>	August 2024	<b>Next Review Date</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2025
<b>Review Cycle</b>	Annually	<b>Version ID</b> CRMS2024
<b>Authorised by</b>	AMEL Board	<b>Date of Authorisation</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2024
<b>Entity Disclosure</b>	The River School incorporates the following entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The River School</li> <li>• The River School Early Childhood Centre</li> </ul>	
<b>Policy Owner</b>	AME Ltd Board	

# 1. Policy Statement and Statement about Commitment

The River School is committed to taking all reasonable steps to promote the safety and wellbeing of students enrolled at the school and their protection from foreseeable harm<sup>1</sup>. In practice, The River School is committed to acting in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld) (“the Act”) to promote the safety and wellbeing of students means that it will implement the measures outlined below in points.

## 2. Implementation

### 2.1. CODE OF CONDUCT

At The River School we expect our employees to conduct themselves as follows:

School employees are expected to always behave in ways that promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of our students. Employees must actively seek to prevent harm to students, and to support those who have been harmed.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Employees should avoid situations where they are alone in an enclosed space with a student.
- When physical contact with a student is a necessary part of the teaching/learning experience, employees must exercise caution to ensure that the contact is appropriate and acceptable. Employees must always advise the student of what they intend doing and seek their consent.
- Employees must not develop a relationship with any student that is, or that can be interpreted as having a personal rather than a professional interest in a student.
- Employees must not have a romantic or sexual relationship with a student.

This commitment is evidence of The River School’s fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2 (2).

### 2.2. RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

The River School is committed to recruiting, selecting, training and managing employees in such a way that limits risks to students. In particular, The River School will:

- Ensure that its recruitment and selection procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
  - Accurate position descriptions, including whether the successful applicant must be a teacher registered with the Queensland College of Teachers (who has been subject to relevant police and other safety checks), whether a Blue Card is necessary for the successful applicant, the responsibilities and supervision associated with the position, the nature and environment of the service provided to children, and the experience and qualifications required by the successful applicant
  - Advertising the position with a clear statement about the school’s commitment to safe and supportive work practices and identifying that candidates will be subject to a teacher registration check or Blue Card screening, a police check, referee checks, identification verification and the requirement to disclose any information relevant to the candidates’ eligibility to engage in activities including children.

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<sup>1</sup> *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020* (QLD) sch 1 s.2(1)

- A selection process that includes assessing the application via an interview process and referee and other checks (as identified above) based on the accurate position description.
- A probationary period of employment, which allows the school to further assess the suitability of the new employee and to act as a check on the selection process.
- Ensure that its training and management procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
  - Management processes that are consistent, fair and supportive.
  - Performance management processes to help employees to improve their performance in a positive manner.
  - Supportive processes for staff when they are experiencing challenges, such as mentoring, mediation, conflict resolution, coaching, additional training, and external support and counselling services.
  - An induction program which thoroughly addresses the school's policies and procedures, particularly its expectations regarding child risk management and to assist employees to understand their role in providing a safe and supportive environment for children.
  - Training new and existing staff on an ongoing basis to enhance skills and knowledge and to reduce exposure to risks, as follows:
    - The school's policies and procedures
    - Identifying, assessing and minimising risks to-students
    - Handling a disclosure or suspicion of harm to a child.
  - Keeping a record of the training provided to employees.
  - Exit interviews to assist the school to identify broader issues of concern that may impact on the safety and wellbeing of children at the school.

This commitment is evidence of The River School's fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(3).

### **2.3. HANDLING DISCLOSURES OR SUSPICIONS OF HARM OR ABUSE**

Any of the types of concerns or reports below must be reported and managed under The River School's Child Protection Policy, as follows:

- All staff with concerns about sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse or a child sexual offence committed by another person
- Teachers, nurses and early childhood education and care professionals with concerns of sexual or physical abuse
- All staff who have received a report of inappropriate behaviour by another staff member.

To report any type of harm, all staff members should use the Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form in Appendix 2 of this document.

Furthermore, and in accordance with section 76 of the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*, the Principal of The River School will report to the Queensland College of Teachers any investigations into allegations of harm caused, or likely to be caused, to a student because of the conduct of a relevant teacher at the school.

Any report made under this section or The River School's Child Protection Policy will fulfill the reporting obligations of all adults under the Criminal Code Act 1899.

This commitment is evidence of The River School's fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(4).

## **2.4. MANAGING BREACHES OF THIS CHILD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The River School is committed to appropriately managing breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy in accordance with its other relevant policies as appropriate in the circumstances including its Child Protection Policy, Code of Conduct Policy, Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures and Enterprises Bargaining Agreement and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(5)

## **2.5. IMPLEMENTING AND REVIEWING THE CHILD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

This Strategy in its entirety and its related policies and procedures are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(6)(a) relating to implementation.

The introduction to this Child Risk Management Strategy and the “Compliance and Monitoring” section below state The River School’s commitment to reviewing the Strategy annually and are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(6)(a) relating to review.

## **2.6. BLUE CARD PROCEDURES**

The River School is committed to acting in accordance with chapters 7 and 8 of the Act relating to the screening of employees in such a way that limits risks to children. In particular, The River School will:

- Require relevant prospective or current employees, volunteers, trainee students and school board members to have working with children authority and check the validity and appropriateness of any currently held notices, in accordance with The River School’s position descriptions and the Act prior to commencement of their engagement.
- Not allow a person to continue to work with children if their working with children authority is cancelled or suspended or a negative notice is received after a change of police information.
- Have all relevant prospective employees and volunteers engaging in Restricted Employment acknowledge and sign a [Restricted Person Declaration Form](#) declaring they are not a restricted person prior to commencing their engagement.
- Not allow a person relying on an exemption to continue to work with children if they become a restricted person.
- Link and unlink individuals as they commence and conclude their engagement with the school.
- Appoint a school contact person who will be responsible for managing the screening process and all related documentation and records.
- Keep written records of all the above actions, decisions and outcomes, including the dates of expiry of working with children authority.
- Ensure that all information in relation to working with children authority is kept confidential.
- Act to remind employees to keep their working with children authority up to date and apply for a renewal prior to expiry.
- Take appropriate action if an employee, volunteer, trainee student or school board member fails to submit a renewal application prior to their working with children authority expiring.

This commitment is evidence of The River School’s fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(6)(b)

## **2.7. HIGH RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The River School’s Risk Management Framework is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(7).

The River School is committed to identifying risks, assessing risks, eliminating and minimising risks and the monitoring of risk to the safety of children on an ongoing basis. The River School will utilise various risk management tools to assist it in this process and will keep appropriate records of decisions made and actions taken in relation to risks to children.

This commitment is evidence of The River School's fulfilment of the requirements of **Schedule 1 s.2(7)**.

## **2.8. STRATEGIES OF COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

The River School's commitment to making this Child Risk Management Strategy available to students, parents and employees via its enrolment package, employee policy folder staff portal, and website, is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(8)(a).

The River School is committed to training employees in relation to risks to students and will conduct this training regularly via annual formal training events, informal updates at staff meetings, and regular discussions between managers and their staff, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(8)(a).

## **3. Responsibilities**

The River School is responsible for developing and implementing this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures to ensure it fulfils its obligations.

All employees at The River School are responsible for acting in compliance with this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures.

## **4. Compliance and Monitoring**

The River School is committed to the annual review of this Strategy. The River School will also record, monitor and report to the AMEL School board, regarding any breaches of the Strategy.

In addition, The River School is committed to other various compliance and monitoring arrangements made under relevant policies and procedures.

## **5. Related Documents**

- The River School Child Protection Policy and Procedures
- The River School Complaints Handling Policy
- The River School Complaints Handling Procedure
- The River School Code of Conduct
- The Risk Management Framework
- The Restricted Person Declaration Form
- The River School Working with Children Registers (Blue Card & Teacher registration)

## **6. Helpful Links**

- **Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services** (lead agency for child protection – see contact information)
- Independent Schools Queensland's [Child Protection Decision Support Trees](#)
- [Child Protection Guide](#) resource
- [Blue Card Services resources](#)

## **Contact Information**

**Emergencies** requiring immediate police attendance, call 000.

**Emergencies outside of working hours** — Child Safety After Hours Service Centre

Free call: 1800 177 135 (Queensland only)

- **Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services** (lead agency for child protection) <https://www.dcssds.qld.gov.au>

- **Caloundra Child Safety Service Centre**

Address: 129 Bulcock Street  
Caloundra Qld 4551

Phone: 07 5438 5400

Email report to: Sunshine Coast Central Region Intake office [sccrisintake@cyjma.qld.gov.au](mailto:sccrisintake@cyjma.qld.gov.au)

- **Police Child Protection Investigation Unit**

Note: If you have serious concerns relating to the sexual abuse of a child contact Police link on 131 444

Local Service

Phone: 5475 2432 (Sunshine Coast)

Email report to: [caiu.sunshinecoast@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:caiu.sunshinecoast@police.qld.gov.au)

- **Family and Child Connect** <https://www.familychildconnect.org.au/>

A free support service that assists families by providing advice or referral about a range of family issues

Phone: 133 264

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Summary of Reporting Harm
- Appendix 2 – Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse

## Summary of Reporting Harm

Who	What abuse	Test	Report to	Legislation
All staff	Sexual	Awareness or suspect sexual or likely sexual abuse	Give a <b>written report</b> to the Principal or a director of the governing body <b>immediately</b> , who must immediately provide a copy of the report to the police.	EGPA sections 366 (2) and 366A (2)
Principal	Sexual	Principal as the first person to suspect sexual or likely sexual abuse	Principal immediately give a written report to the police and to a director of the governing body.	EGPA sections 366 (2A) and (2B) 366A(3) and (4)
Teacher	Sexual and physical	Significant harm & Parent may not be willing and able	Confer with principal, report to Child Safety	CPA sections 13E and 13G
All staff	Physical, psychological, emotional, neglect, exploitation	Significant harm & Parent may not be willing and able	Principal, through to Child Safety	Accreditation Regulations section 16
All staff	Any	Not a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer with consent	Principal, through to Family and Child Connect	CPA Sections 13B and 159M
Principal	Any	Not a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer with consent	Family and Child Connect	CPA Sections 13B and 159M
Employing authority (Principal/Board)	Harm or likely harm due to the conduct of a teacher	When you start to deal with an allegation; & When you finish dealing with an allegation	Queensland College of Teachers	QCT sections 76 and 77
Any member of the public	Any	Significant harm & Parent may not be willing and able	Child Safety	CPA section 13A
Any adult	A child sexual offence against a child by an adult	Gains information that causes the adult to believe on reasonable grounds, or ought reasonably to cause the adult to believe, that a child sexual offence is being or has been committed and  (b) at the relevant time, the child is or was— (i) under 16 years; or (ii) a person with an impairment of the mind.	Police	Criminal Code section 229BC

**Private and Confidential**  
**Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse**

Date:
School:
School Phone:
School Email:

DETAILS OF STUDENT/CHILD HARMED OR AT RISK OF HARM/ABUSE	
Legal Name:	Preferred Name:
DOB:	Sex /Descriptor:
Year Level:	Cultural Background:
Primary language spoken:	
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the student verified under NCCD? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Disability Category:
Student's Residential Address:	Phone:
	Student's Personal Mobile:

FAMILY DETAILS	
Parent/caregiver 1:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H):	(W): (M):
Parent/caregiver 2:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H):	(W): (M):
Is the student in out of home care? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any Family Court or Domestic Violence orders in place? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	

PERSON ALLEGED TO HAVE CAUSED THE HARM OR ABUSE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Child family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Other adult
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/other child	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	



## Child Protection Compliance Policy

<b>PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION YOU HAVE WHICH LED TO THE SUSPICION OF HARM OR ABUSE</b> (Attach extra pages if necessary).
<b>Details of any harm and/or sexual abuse to the student</b> – please include: Time and date of the incident; location of the incident, source of information; details of person alleged to have caused the harm or sexual abuse; physical appearance of any injury; immediate and ongoing safety concerns; any disclosures made by student; any previous incidents of harm; behavioural indicators of harm; presence of any medical needs or developmental delays; and if the information relates to an unborn child, the alleged risk to the unborn child.
<b>Please indicate the identity of anyone else who may have information about the harm or abuse</b>
<b>Additional information provided as an attachment</b> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Name of staff member making report if not the Principal:</b>		
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Principal:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Principal's email address:</b>		
<b>Response requested by school:</b>		

ACTION TAKEN		
Form was emailed to (please tick which agencies the form was sent to):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Queensland Police Services (QPS)</b> <i>Police Child Protection Investigation Unit</i> caiu.sunshinecoast@police.qld.gov.au
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Department responsible for Child Safety</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Family and Child Connect</b> <a href="https://www.familychildconnect.org.au/">https://www.familychildconnect.org.au/</a>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Queensland College of Teachers</b>

(Adapted from EQ SP-4 Report of Suspected Harm or Risk of Harm)  
Child Protection Act (Section 13 G (2) (b): Child Protection Regulation 2023

**CONFIRM RECEIPT OF EMAILED FORM AND ENSURE ORIGINAL IS STORED IN A SECURE LOCATION ALONG WITH ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION COLLECTED FOR PURPOSES OF THIS REPORT.**