



Corpus Christi College

Complaints Policy – Professional Standards Violations, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Abuse

1. Preamble

Corpus Christi College is the provincial seminary for the Catholic Dioceses of Victoria and Tasmania.

As part of their seminary training, seminarians receive extensive formation for healthy celibate living and the boundaries appropriate to relationships with children and adults.

As part of their formation and according to the principles set out in Integrity in Ministry, seminarians are taught about the Church's unequivocal stance against sexual abuse and are made aware of the importance of caring for the victims of abuse and meeting their needs wherever possible.

All seminarians are made aware of the principles and processes contained in Integrity in Ministry, Integrity in the Service of the Church, Towards Healing and the Melbourne Response as well as codes of conduct applying in their Dioceses of origin.

Drawing from the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, Corpus Christi College is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons.

Corpus Christi College encourages its seminarians to have relationships with people that are healthy, life giving and God centred.

This policy is intended to give effect to this commitment and to describe the procedures to be followed when a complaint of abuse is received involving a seminarian or one of the clergy on the staff of Corpus Christi College.

2. Formation

Each adult is, and must be, responsible for his own sexual growth and maturity. To support this responsibility, Corpus Christi College is committed to providing appropriate programs for seminarians which include formation and training applicable to the prevention and recognition of sexual abuse and misconduct.

Corpus Christi College is committed to providing seminarians with ongoing comprehensive formation and education to assist them to develop an understanding of sexual abuse and misconduct so that they:

- Are aware of appropriate boundaries;
- Reflect on their relationships;
- Develop a healthy understanding of their own sexuality.

Corpus Christi College has developed this policy to address incidents and accusations of professional standards violations, sexual misconduct and sexual abuse involving a seminarian or one of the clergy on the staff of Corpus Christi College.

The policy will ensure that all at Corpus Christi College are aware of expectations in regard to behaviour and how to respond when a violation of professional standards has occurred and how to care for the victim in the most appropriate manner.

The needs and rights of children and vulnerable persons the subject of a professional standard breach or sexual misconduct are addressed in this policy.

3. Resources and Reference Material

This policy does not stand alone. College clergy and seminarians are required to:

- Abide by the laws of the State;
- Abide by the Principles and Standards in “Integrity in Ministry” and “Integrity in the Service of the Church”;
- Have a full understanding of the guidelines “May Our Children Flourish” – the Code of Conduct for Caring for Children (the Code of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne);
- Understand the operation and procedures applying under Towards Healing and the Melbourne Response.

Seminarians and College clergy from a Diocese other than the Archdiocese of Melbourne may also be required to abide by any Diocesan guidelines that exist for their Diocese.

While the residents of the seminary may be from a State other than Victoria, as they are resident in Victoria, the laws of Victoria apply to the individual.

As Corpus Christi College is located in the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Melbourne the policies and protocols of the Archdiocese of Melbourne apply unless otherwise stated.

4. Definitions

Breach of Professional Standards

Boundary violations, taking advantage of a person in a degrading manner, using people for their own advantage, endangering the welfare of another (e.g. providing alcohol or tobacco to under age person) and inappropriate use of social media.

Sexual Misconduct

Adult violations, inappropriate sexual relationships with another adult, accessing pornography.

Sexual abuse of a minor

Behaviour of a sexual nature with a child, grooming of a child for sexual purposes, accessing and the distribution of child pornography.

5. General Principles

Corpus Christi College is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons.

All College clergy and seminarians of Corpus Christi College are required to comply with Commonwealth and State Laws, Church guidelines as well as College protocols and procedures.

Corpus Christi College is committed to reporting complaints of child sexual abuse to the Police.

Complaints of sexual abuse of a minor, sexual misconduct and breaches of Professional Standards involving a seminarian or one of the clergy on the staff of Corpus Christi College will be addressed according to the procedures stated in this policy.

A complaint of sexual abuse of a minor, sexual misconduct or Breach of Professional Standards involving a seminarian or one of the clergy on the staff of Corpus Christi College may be made by staff or seminarians within Corpus Christi College or people external to the College.

Complainants are to be offered access and referred to counselling as appropriate.

6. Complaint Procedures

When a complaint has been made in regard to a seminarian or College clergy, the following will apply for the person receiving the complaint.

6.1 Complaint

(a) Child Sexual Abuse – victim still a minor

If there is a complaint of sexual abuse of a child who is a minor when the complaint is made, the person who receives the report or complaint is obliged to report the complaint immediately to the Police and does not have an obligation to inform the authorities of the College.

The Rector may be informed after the complaint has been reported to the Police.

(b) Child Sexual Abuse – complaint made by an adult victim

If there is a complaint of sexual abuse of a child who is an adult when the complaint is made, the person who receives the report or complaint is obliged to inform the complainant of their right to report their allegation to the Police.

If the complainant wishes to pursue their complaint through the Church, they can do so through either the Melbourne Response, if their complaint relates to abuse by a priest, seminarian or lay person under the control of the Archdiocese of Melbourne or otherwise through Towards Healing.

The Rector is to be informed about the complaint.

(c) Sexual Misconduct

On receiving a complaint, a report is to be made to the Rector of the College.

(d) Breach of Professional Standards

On receiving a complaint a report is to be made to the Rector of the College.

6.2 Investigation of the Complaint

The Rector collates the material of the complaint and gathers basic information in regard to the accused i.e. how long at seminary, age, etc.

The Rector informs the appropriate Bishop of the Diocese to which the subject of the complaint belongs.

If the complaint involves a seminarian or priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the complaint is to be referred to an Independent Commissioner under the Melbourne Response.

If the complaint involves a seminarian or priest incardinated in a diocese other than the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the complaint is to be referred to Towards Healing for investigation.

The report of the investigation including recommendations will be delivered to the Rector as the Authority at Corpus Christi College who will advise the Bishop to which the seminarian or priest belongs about the outcome and any recommendations for disciplinary action.

6.3 Complaints relating to the Rector

Any complaint that relates to the Rector should be reported in the first instance to the Archbishop of Melbourne or his nominee. Complaints reported to the Archbishop will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy.

7. Evaluation & Review

The policy shall be reviewed annually by the Trustees of Corpus Christi College.

8. Approval History Review

Version 1	Approved by:	Date:
Review	Approved by:	Date: