

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Child Protection refers to protection from abuse whether emotional, physical or sexual. The legal binding State policy in effect is The National Policy on Child Protection, issued in November 1999. The Document is available at the office of the Head of School. All staff at Stella Maris College are well informed on the latest policies of Child Protection in order to prevent students being harmed in their development. The policy of Pastoral Care at Stella Maris College pivots on care and sensitivity, hence, neglect should be reported.

Stella Maris College is also bound by the Policies of the Archdioceses of Malta. In this Policy, the term "Child" refers to any person under the age of 18. The school's designated person responsible for the "child" is the Guidance Teacher, accountable for the formulation and the follow up of Child Abuse and Child neglect reports. The Head of School is to be informed immediately when abuse or neglect is suspected.

The procedure that all members of staff follow at our College:

- ✓ Abuse is reported IMMEDIATELY whilst informing the student that we are legally bound to do so. A record is kept of the date and time when the abuse was reported together with all the concerns, stories or incidents reported.
- ✓ Parents are NEVER contacted unless instructed by the Child Protection Department in writing or when urgent medical treatment is needed. Any information may contaminate the process or might interfere with of evidence gathering.
- ✓ Students are explained to that we are duty bound by law to report and that this is for his protection. Information is kept confidential and all recorded material will be locked safely.

The school will report allegations to Child Protection Services by phone and then in written form.