
CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2024

Since 2012 the CIE has assisted Catholic schools in South Africa to adopt and implement a National Child Safeguarding Policy in order to keep God's children safe. The policy was revised on 2018 and schools are trained to protect children, offer support when incidents of harm occur and report these legally.

The CIE continues to be deeply concerned about the high levels of violence in South Africa and the impact this has not only on learners but teachers and communities as well. The Children's Institute's Child Gauge reports that 42% of children in South Africa have experienced violence. This staggering statistic requires urgent and easily available support. The Mental Health needs of school communities needs to be addressed and psychosocial support be accessible.

In schools, teachers continue to struggle with discipline often resorting to corporal punishment, further violating children. CIE's Building Peaceful Schools programme offers schools a way to understand their school climate and address areas of concern. It further offers a different way to do discipline through using restorative practices based on peacebuilding and conflict management.

In this Child Protection week the CIE calls on Catholic schools to continue to make Child Safeguarding a priority, to ensure adequate resources are in place and that the requirements of the policy are ensured.

For more information contact the National Designated Child Safeguarding person:

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