



Student Protection Fact Sheet

Student protection involves:

- working to make schools safe and supportive places
- taking action to prevent students being harmed at school, and
- reporting any suspicion you have that a student has been harmed or may be at risk of harm.

All children have a right to be protected from harm.

Harm is:

Any detrimental effect of a significant nature to the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused.

This means anything that will have a serious and harmful effect on a student's physical health, or how they think and feel about themselves.

Any behaviour that harms a student is wrong. Sometimes a culture may have a custom or practice that harms children. Education Queensland policy says that harm to students will not be tolerated. It is **NOT OK**. In other words, culture or custom is **NO EXCUSE** for harming students.

Everyone who works in a school must look after the best interests of children.

Managing your own behaviour is the first step in student protection

- NEVER harm a student, either physically, psychologically or emotionally
- NEVER make fun of a student, put them down or discriminate against them because of their race or religion
- NEVER touch a student in a sexual way, or engage in any other inappropriate sexual activity (for example, sending suggestive text message or showing a student pornography)
- NEVER do anything that would make people think you are doing something sexual to a student.

You must report, to the Principal, any harm to a student that is caused by:

- someone working at the school
- another student
- someone from the student's family, a friend or a stranger
- the student self-harming.



If you see harm occurring at school:

1. **Help** the student who has been harmed, for example,
 - by telling the students to move away
 - get a staff member involved as soon as possible.
2. **Tell the Principal** straight away about what you have seen.
3. **Write** down what you saw and give the information to the Principal.

If you suspect a student has been harmed at school or outside of school:

1. **Tell the Principal** straight away about what you suspect.
2. **Write** down what you suspect and give the information to the Principal.

If a student tells you that they have been harmed at school or outside of school:

1. **Listen** carefully.
2. **Reassure** the student that they have done the right thing by telling you.
3. **Tell the student** you must tell the Principal what they have told you.
4. **Tell the Principal** straight away about what the student told you.
5. **Write** down what the student told you and give the information to the Principal.

If you suspect the Principal is responsible for causing harm to a student, report this to the Executive Director (School Improvement), at the local regional office.

The main thing to remember is:

If you suspect a student might have been harmed or might be at risk of harm, tell the Principal straight away. If the Principal isn't available you must tell the Acting Principal or a Deputy Principal.

For further information see www.education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices