



# Student Protection Fact Sheet

## Student protection involves:

- Working to make schools safe, supportive and disciplined 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 students.

Managing your own behaviour is the first step in student protection

- Do not engage in conduct that could cause significant harm to a student, either physically, psychologically or emotionally without lawful authority (e.g. lawful physical restraint, self-defence, defence of others)
- Do not unlawfully discriminate against a student
- Do not touch a student in a sexual way, or engage in any other inappropriate sexual activity (for example, sending suggestive text messages or showing a student pornography)
- Do not do or say anything that would make a reasonable person think you are sexually involved with 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

<http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/protection/childsafety/students/index.html>





**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:**

3. **Listen** carefully
4. **Reassure** the student that they have done the right thing by telling you
5. **Tell** the student you must tell the Principal what they have told you
6. **Tell** the principal straight away about what the student told you
7. **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 Regional Director, 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/student-services](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/student-services)