

# Stymie Guidelines

## PURPOSE

SJC has a range of mechanisms by which a student can report an incident or concern about someone in the school community being harmed or at risk of being harmed. These include direct notification to a member of staff and School Student Protection Contact's (SSPC's), or anonymously via Stymie.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on how information reported through Stymie is used. Further it provides direction regarding responsible, legal and ethical use of Stymie, as well as implications for misuse.

## SCOPE

These guidelines are relevant to all students at St Joseph's College who use Stymie to make an anonymous concern about a student or member of staff.

## DEFINITIONS

Stymie is an externally developed on-line reporting tool designed to support existing student well-being/pastoral care frameworks in schools and was built in consideration of the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework and the recommendations from the Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study. It enables a student who is aware that someone is being harmed or is at risk of harm to make an anonymous notification of their concerns, and they can upload supportive screenshots of aggressive, threatening or harassing social media content or messages. SJC is a Stymie-registered school and all students have access to in order to make a formal notification of concern.

## USING STYMIE

- Any SJC student can make a notification about someone they believe is being bullied or harmed.
- Personal email addresses are not used to receive Stymie notifications.
- Stymie notifications are not altered or added to, in whole or in part, in any way.
- SJC has an investigative procedure when a Stymie notification is received. The Deputy Principal and AP-Students receive the notification and are responsible for disseminating/triaging the notification information in consultation with Principal (if required). Following this initial consultation, the concern raised may be referred to Pastoral Care staff, House Leaders, parents, Senior Leadership Team, Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, Dept. of Child Safety, Queensland Police Service, Family Connect for further exploration and follow up.
- SJC has a duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. Stymie notifications are confidential and are not shared, forwarded, printed, copied, CC'd BCC'd, or exported to the wider organisational community, except when used to support appropriate investigative procedures. These may include but are not limited to school/guardian conferencing, school and

university/student conferencing, school/emergency services conferencing and school/teacher conferencing, employee/employer conferencing.

- Stymie notifications are not to be used as evidence against a staff member. Notifications may be recorded by SLT. In cases where there it is identified that there is a pattern of concerning behaviour/issues, SLT members may choose to have a discussion and/or be present in that teacher's classroom. Further concerns will be addressed with the staff member through three channels:
  - Student protection
  - Code of Conduct
  - Unsatisfactory Performance Procedure

## **MISUSE OF STYMIE**

- Students who use Stymie to make a notification must do so in a lawful manner. It is a criminal offence to use a carriage service to deliver content that is menacing, harassing or offensive. Refer to Criminal Code Act 1995 (Commonwealth), Section 474.17(1). Using Stymie technology to commit an offence, may result in other agencies being engaged to conduct further investigations.