

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

ABUSE POLICIES

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING • PO BOX 3310 • MISSION, BC • V2V 4J5 • PHONE: 604-826-8715 • FAX: 604-826-8725

Safety (Abuse) Policy

Safety in the High School

The personal dignity and physical safety of students in the high school seminary is a prerequisite for effective formation. Here are some measures by which the seminary responds to incidents in which a student is hurt physically or exposed to sexual abuse.

Response to Physical Injury

The rector is the primary person responsible for the high school students. At the beginning of each school year, he will appoint two students (the “assistant infirmarians”) to assist the primary infirmarian, who will be a member of the faculty. When a student is hurt in some physical activity or falls ill, the assistant infirmarians or any other student will inform the rector at once. In so far as he is able, the rector will himself attend to the injured student’s medical needs. In more serious cases, he will consult with the primary infirmarian and, if needed, with the abbot. The rector will have the help of the assistant infirmarians and will also notify the housework supervisor of the situation. The rector will arrange for the injured student to be taken to emergency at the hospital, if necessary. That same day, he will inform the parents and draw up a report, submitting copies to the abbot and prior and keeping one in the seminary records.

Response to Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse refers to communication or physical contact between an adult and a minor or between a student and a student in which the vulnerable party is subjected to violations of personal boundaries, inappropriate touching, or pressure to engage in intimate physical or sexual contact.

Reporting

A student who has experienced or witnessed an incident of abuse should report it at once to the rector, or if that is not possible, to the abbot. The rector or abbot will then attend compassionately to the vulnerable student, gain a complete appraisal of what happened, address the matter with the offender, notify the parents of the students involved, and take the necessary measures so that the offence cannot be repeated, even dismissing the offender from the seminary if needed. The rector will draw up a report of the case, submitting copies to the abbot and prior and keeping one copy in his records. He will also inform the parents.

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Educating and Informing

Students need to be educated about healthy boundaries and appropriate affection in friendship and interpersonal communication. The rector will therefore address this issue at least at the beginning and middle of the year in his conferences with the students in such a way that they can order their relationships rightly and recognise abuse when it occurs. Likewise, members of the faculty who are familiar with this policy may address this issue with their students whenever it is appropriate to their teaching matter. In all instances, rector and faculty should speak of these matters in the positive light of the students' personal dignity and physical integrity and avoid fostering either unreasonable fear of others or undue curiosity for explicit details.

