



**Child Protection Alert**

10 March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians

This office has been advised of the following incident which occurred on Thursday 9 March 2017 in the Mandurah area:

**A year 9 female student from Mandurah Catholic College caught Transperth Bus 594 home from school. When the Student boarded the bus there were no seats left and an older male sitting at the front of the bus said to her “Come here Good-looking”. The man proceeded to touch the student’s arms and legs, asked her about sex and told her that his favourite subject at school was Sex Education. The man also spoke to another Year Nine female student who was on the bus. The Student informed her mother after she got off the bus and they reported the matter to the Police. The man is described as Caucasian, approximately 70 years old, tall and thin with grey hair, brown teeth and blood shot eyes. He was wearing a white shirt, black pants and white shoes.**

In light of this incident, I urge all students to take care when going to and from school, and to report anything suspicious to parents, school and the police – call 131 444 or the local station to report the incident to police (and only use **000** in an emergency) or 1800 333 000 to reach Crime Stoppers.

Here are some simple suggestions to help your child stay safe. Please ask your child to:

- Always travel in company
- Walk on the right hand side of the road so you face oncoming traffic
- Wherever possible, leave space between yourself and the roadway
- Stay in areas that are well lit
- Stay in view – avoid going into areas that are hidden from view (such as parkland bush or behind shopping centres) and plan trips to avoid such locations
- Be alert – earphones and headphones can reduce your awareness considerably
- If you have a mobile phone, have it turned on and ready to dial an emergency number
- If a passing car stops nearby never get too close
- Do not hesitate to run from a situation in which you feel at risk
- Provide this advice to brothers and sisters, especially if younger
- Report suspicious behaviour to parents, school and the police, noting number plates of cars and/or clothing or distinguishing features of individuals.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Joy Ketteringham - Principal

*Faith & Trust*