

Statement of Commitment

CHILD SAFETY



Objectives

This Statement provides the framework for:

- The development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within the School
- The creation of a safe and supportive School environment and a positive and robust child protection culture
- The promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the School
- Complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in NSW.

Statement of Commitment

Wellington Christian School is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and in which they will serve.

The School is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people at the School, and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and harm.

At Wellington Christian School, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse. The School regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, and as such is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain safe and supportive physical and online environments for all children and young people in the School.

Child Safe Values and Principles

The following child safe principles guide the School's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the School.

1. All children and young people have the right to be safe and treated fairly.
2. The welfare and best interests of children and young people are paramount.
3. The views and the privacy of children and young people must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children and young people are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct and Staff and Professional Boundaries with Students Policy.
5. The safety of children and young people is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our School community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, volunteers, third party contractors and external education providers who have direct contact with the children and young people.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all Board members and staff members.

10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the School community, and all are welcome and encouraged to use them.
11. Procedures are in place to ensure all School premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

Child Protection Investigators

As part of our commitment to child safety and protection, Wellington Christian School has appointed a number of Child Protection Investigators as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the School community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Child Protection Investigators are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and the Child Protection Program.

Responsibilities

The School acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

At Wellington Christian School, all members of the Board of Directors, staff members, volunteers, third party contractors and external education providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children and young people. Specific responsibilities for each group of the School community are further explained in the "Who is Responsible for Child Protection" section of our Child Protection Program.

Reporting Child Protection Concerns

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the School community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and how to report child abuse concerns to one of our School's nominated Child Protection Investigators. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, volunteers, third party contractors, external education providers, students, parents/carers or other community members who have concerns that a child or young person may be subject to abuse are asked to contact one of the School's Child Protection Investigators.

Communications will be treated confidentially and on a "need to know" basis, that is, only those people or agencies who need to know about the concerns in order to address the situation will have that information shared with them.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger, the Police should be called on 000.