



CHARTER OF COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Statement of Commitment

PVS is committed to providing education and care to our young people. We aim to assist them to develop into high-achieving students who are positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and learn.

PVS 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 grooming by implementing robust policies and procedures to deter abuse and grooming and facilitate detection and reporting. We have a zero tolerance for child abuse and grooming. PVS regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance. PVS 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.

Objectives

This Statement provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing, deter inappropriate interactions and facilitate detection of abuse and grooming;
- the creation of a safe and supportive environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the school; and
- compliance with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in WA.

Child-Safe Values & Principles

The following child-safe values and principles guide our commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures.

1. All children have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
3. The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Staff Code of Conduct and Staff and Student Professional Boundaries policy.
5. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child-safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our community.

7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff including Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all staff members, Governing Body members, and regular volunteers.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and grooming are simple and accessible for all members of the community.
11. Procedures are in place to ensure all premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

Standards of Behaviour

The School demands the highest standards of behaviour for all stakeholders interacting with children and young people.

Responsibilities

PVS acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility and that all community members have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.

Reporting Child Protection Concerns

Staff are provided with detailed guidance on how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and grooming and how to report child protection concerns to the principal. Staff are provided with detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse and grooming incidents to relevant external authorities. PLEASE NOTE the special reporting requirements for the mandatory reporting of child sex abuse. In accordance with the WA Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools, all breaches and suspected breaches of the Child Protection Code of Conduct must be reported to the Principal or the Board Chair. All communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

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

If you have any questions regarding the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, and how it applies to you, the teaching staff and principal are available for advice.

Program Compliance and Review

PVS is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program and to ensuring compliance with WA child protection law and regulation.

Policies and procedures are reviewed annually and updated regularly for overall effectiveness, in light of experience and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards.

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