

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

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Rationale

All children and young people (*'Children'*), regardless of their age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious beliefs, ability and family background have the right to feel and be safe, to be protected from harm, and to be treated with dignity, respect and integrity.

This Statement reflects the shared commitment of Wenona's (*the 'School'*) partnership with our community, for the benefit of the Children in our care. It acknowledges the unique role that staff, parents, guardians, volunteers, external providers, and contractors have in this partnership, and promotes the critical role we all share in caring and providing a safe environment for Children.

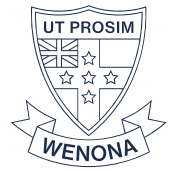
Policy Statement

The School is committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment where all Children are valued, feel safe and can actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Child safety and wellbeing are embedded in our organisation and are part of our leadership, governance, and organisational culture. The School's commitment to prioritising the safety of Children in its care is based on its duty of care and responsibilities to Children and always acting in the best interests of Children.

As part of this commitment the School upholds the following values and standards:

- The best interests of Children and their protection from harm are paramount, with child safety processes embedded in our day to day practices.
- A zero tolerance of child abuse and a commitment to actively contributing to a child safe environment where Children are protected from abuse by creating conditions to reduce the likelihood of Children being harmed, and increase the likelihood of identifying and reporting harm.
- Understanding and respecting the rights of Children.
- Ensuring Children are empowered and are taken seriously if they raise concerns in relation to their safety and well-being.
- Valuing and supporting diversity, inclusion and equality, including the participation and empowerment of Children with a disability, Indigenous Australian Children, Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and Children who identify with the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Actioning concerns about child safety raised by Children and/or their parents and/or their carers.
- Ensuring that reporting abuse is not obstructed or prevented with all disclosures, allegations and suspicions of harm responded to as required by law and internal processes.
- Providing ongoing education, training, engagement and transparency within the School community to create an awareness of the rights of Children, child safe environments, and the Codes of Conduct for staff, students, parents and the School community.
- Maintaining child safe focused human resource recruitment, inductions and ongoing practices.
- Implementation of the Child Safe Standards in School procedures and policies with ongoing revision and training to ensure compliance and awareness.



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Definitions

‘Children’ refers to all children and young people under the age of 18.

Related information

Please also refer to the *School’s Disability and Discrimination Policy (108)*, *Grievance Procedures for Staff (112)*, *Grievance Procedures for Parents Students and Public (113)*, *Grievance Procedures for Boarding Students and Parents/Guardians of Boarders (113.10)*, *Inclusion and Diversity Policy (115)*, *Staff Code of Conduct (200)*, *Community Code of Conduct (200.10)*, *Social Media Policy (206)*, *Safe and Supportive Environment Statement (300)*, *Student Code of Behaviour (350)*, *Anti-Bullying Policy (353)*, and the *Drug and Alcohol Policy (355)*.

Further information can also be accessed online: *The Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015*, *The Office of the Children’s Guardian*, *The Child Safe Standards*, *Working with Children Check*, *The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1988*, and the *Office of the Australian Information Commissioner*.

References

This document has been written in line with the Child Safe Standards as recommended by the Royal Commission and accepted by the NSW Government. It is based on the information provided by the Office of the Children’s Guardian in their document *A Guide to the Child Safe Standards* and made available via their live training webinars *Introduction to the Child Safe Standards* and *Developing a Code of Conduct*. The NSW Child Safe Standards complement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.