

Catholic Schools NSW Limited Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Document Version Control

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Document Authorisation

Name	Signature	Date
Board Members	By resolution	19 May 2021
Chief Executive Officer	By signature	5 August 2024

Document Review Process

Name	Comment	Date
Deputy General Counsel	Triennial review	5 August 2027

Policy Ownership

The Chief Legal and Risk Officer is responsible for the development and update of this policy.

Policy Application

This Policy is subject to adoption by the Board.

Policy Location

This policy is located on PolicyConnect <https://csnsw.policyconnect.com.au>

1. Purpose

Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) is the overarching entity for the purpose of advancing education and religion in Catholic schools in NSW. In conducting its functions and activities, CSNSW provides support and resources to Catholic schools in NSW, is provided with information related to the protection, welfare and wellbeing of students, and provides services directly to students in Catholic schools, through CSNSW Sport.

This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety forms part of CSNSW's Child Safe Program.

2. Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

- (a) CSNSW has zero tolerance for child abuse.
- (b) CSNSW is committed to:
 - (i) the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;
 - (j) providing a child safe environment;
 - (ii) supporting Catholic schools in NSW in providing child safe environments;
 - (iii) engaging the most suitable people to work with children;
 - (iv) providing high quality employee, volunteer, and contractor supervision;
 - (v) reporting suspected abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and risk of harm in accordance with relevant child protection legislation;
 - (vi) working appropriately and cooperatively with Catholic schools, other education providers, and organisations involved in child safety and wellbeing;
 - (vii) ensuring children, families, and carers are able to report concerns and provide feedback and input as needed;
 - (viii) providing an environment in which children and young people feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.
- (c) This Statement of Commitment is published on the CSNSW website and displayed in the offices of CSNSW.

3. Child Safe Program

To give effect to its commitment to child safety, CSNSW has a Child Safe Program, which includes:

- (a) Child Safe Code of Conduct, ensuring employees, directors, volunteers, and contractors engaged by CSNSW understand their obligations with respect to child safety and are aware of appropriate and inappropriate behaviours with children,
- (b) Reporting Child Safety Concerns Policy,
 - (i) ensuring employees, directors, volunteers, and contractors understand their obligations to, and procedures for, reporting concerns regarding inappropriate conduct with children, or risks of harm to children, and child abuse offences committed involving children
 - (ii) providing procedures for ensuring child protection related information received by CSNSW is reported to the appropriate organisation or body responsible for the management of such information in accordance with child protection legislation.

- (c) Requiring all employees, and volunteers and contractors engaged in child-related work, to provide
 - (i) a declaration with respect to their suitability to engage in child-related work,
 - (ii) a valid Working with Children Check clearance.
- (d) Verifying and recording all Working with Children Check clearances of employees, volunteers, and contractors engaged in child-related work or deemed to be engaged in child-related work.

In addition, CSNSW strives to create an environment where children and young people feel empowered and are able to participate in decisions affecting them.

4. Compliance and Review

CSNSW is committed to compliance with the CSNSW Child Safe Program and CSNSW's compliance with child protection laws. CSNSW's Child Safe Program is subject to regular review to ensure it remains effective.