

Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church

Child Safe Policy

Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church is committed to protecting the safety of all people within its programs, ministries and events. All people, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, disability and family or social background have equal rights to this protection.

All people (including children) have the right to be respected and valued as well as feel emotionally, physically and spiritually safe at all times. Our policy has been developed to uphold this commitment to safeguarding and to adhere to Australian and Victorian legislation.

Our child safe policy

This policy applies to all staff, including ministers, parish councillors, paid staff, volunteers, students or anyone working for and on behalf of our **Church**.

The purpose of this policy:

To protect children and young people and vulnerable adults who receive **Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church** services.

To provide ministers, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guides our approach to child protection;

Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Our Policy Aims to:

- Minimise the risk of abuse, misconduct and the misuse of positional power.
- Ensure that all cases of suspected abuse and misconduct are handled thoroughly.
- Ensure that leaders and programs are safe.
- Ensure that all people are respected and valued.

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church is committed to child safety.

- We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our volunteers.
- We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.
- We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.
- We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.
- Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.
- Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all of our staff and volunteers.
- Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.
- We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.
- We have specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.
- The following values reflect the culture that we are committed to promoting within Whittlesea - Kinglake Anglican Church: Due diligence, Integrity, Duty of Care, Transparency, Inclusivity, Teamwork.