



Commitment to Children's Safety

An outline for parents and carers of how Brighton Beach Church looks out for children within our community and in our care.

November 2022

Brighton Beach Church is committed to being a safe organisation. We will exercise our duty of care to every person – every child and every adult – on every occasion.

We have established robust policies, procedures and training to facilitate our commitment to being a safe organisation for children, young people and families. This framework is regularly reviewed to incorporate guidance from the **Commission for Children and Young People** (and other government bodies), Churches of Christ Vic/Tas (our denominational body), and other service providers.

Child Safe Standards

Brighton Beach Church follows the Child Safe Standards set by the CCYP to keep children, young people and their families safe.

The Child Safe Standards are:¹

1. Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
2. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
3. Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
4. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
5. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
6. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
7. Processes for complaints and concerns are child focussed.
8. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
9. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
10. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
11. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

¹ <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/the-11-child-safe-standards/>

Our Team

All of our Children's Ministry leaders will complete a Working With Children Check, receive duty of care training which is reviewed periodically (at least annually), and commit to a Code of Conduct that sets out their duties and obligations to care for children.

We organise our ministry programs to ensure that children are always in the care of a team with at least two members, to ensure sufficient capacity to care for them, as well as accountability.

Sharing Feedback or Concerns

We seek to include our children, young people and families in the decision-making, rule-making and planning of our ministry programs. We welcome the input of children and families.

If you or your child experiences something regarded as unsafe during a children's ministry program, or if you would like to ask a question or share an idea, please don't hesitate to speak with a member of our children's ministry team.

You can chat with a team member on a Sunday or email us at office@brightonbeachchurch.org.au.

We will take appropriate action in response to any concerns raised by children or their families.

Find Out More

You can find out more about our policies and procedures by asking for a copy of our **Leader Manual for Children's Ministry**, and the associated **Children's Ministry Code of Conduct**.

For any other queries, chat with us in person, or contact us at office@brightonbeachchurch.org.au.