



CHILD SAFE POLICY

This Child Safe Policy has been developed in accordance with and implements Principle 1 of the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) (National Principles).

The Child Safe Policy is published on our Learning Community's public website and provided to new Staff, and to Direct Contact Volunteers at induction. It is also communicated through other mediums such as volunteer sessions, welcome/induction packs and newsletters.

Purpose

Our Child Safe Policy, which includes our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing, was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the Learning Community to promoting children's wellbeing and safeguarding children from harm, and to provide an outline of the policies and practices that we have developed to keep our students safe, including from abuse or other harm.

It is an overarching policy that provides the key elements of our approach to the Learning Community as a child safe organisation and sets the tone for the Learning Community's entire Child Safe Program.

The Child Safe Policy provides the framework for:

- implementing the National Principles
- developing work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection within the Learning Community
- creating a safe and supportive Learning Community environment and a positive and robust child safe culture
- promoting and openly discussing child safety issues within the Learning Community
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection and safety in South Australia.

Scope

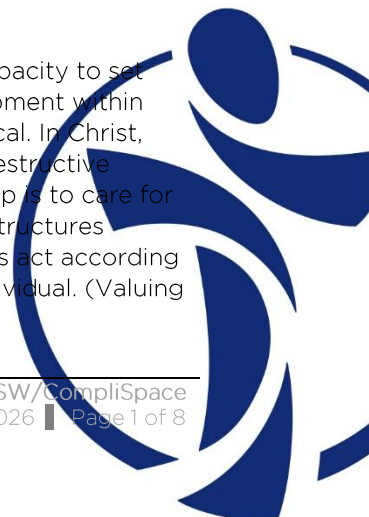
The Learning Community's Child Safe Policy applies to all adults in the Learning Community, including Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, External Education Providers, parents/carers and other family members.

This Policy applies in all Learning Community environments, both physical and online, and on-site and off-site Learning Community grounds (e.g. camps and excursions).

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

In the Lutheran learning communities the gospel is to "inform all programs, relationships and activities" (LCA and Its School statement). The love of God in Jesus Christ is to govern all that is done, in response to this love, people in the school community are directed to their fellow human beings. Where they love others, they love him. Christ's promise is that whatever is done for others is done for him. Informed and transformed by God's creative, redemptive and sanctifying love, God's people are concerned with the total needs of their fellow human beings.

The Child Safe Program in place at each learning community defines power as the capacity to set and care for boundaries. Boundaries are the structures which support human development within community; boundaries may be personal, communal, spiritual, psychological or physical. In Christ, there is an empowerment by the gospel to recognise boundaries and prevent their destructive crossing and to care for those who have been violated. Our responsibility of leadership is to care for professional boundaries through the establishment of structures that protect them. Structures provide for support, examination, and action to ensure that leaders, staff and students act according to boundaries that help, protect and uphold the dignity, worth and safety of each individual. (Valuing Safe Communities: Statement of values)



All children and young people who come to Learning Community have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We are committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

We have a zero tolerance for harm to children and young people and are committed to acting in students' best interests and keeping them safe from harm.

The Learning Community regards its child safety responsibilities with the utmost importance and is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintaining a child safe culture.

Each member of the Learning Community has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role that they play individually, and collectively, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all students is at the forefront of all that they do, and every decision that they make.

Child Safe Principles and Standards

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

The National Principles were developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission in response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The National Principles are comprised of 10 Principles that were informed by, but go further than, the 10 Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission. They are:

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

Children and Young People's Rights to Safety, Information and Participation

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is a child safe and child-centred organisation. Our environment is friendly and welcoming to all children and young people.

We actively seek to include students in decisions that affect them. This includes decisions about organisational planning, delivery of services, management of facilities, and learning and assessment environments.

We ensure that students know about their rights to safety, information and participation. We recognise the importance of friendships and support from peers. We actively seek to understand what makes students feel safe in our Learning Community and regularly communicate with students about what they can do if they feel unsafe.

Parents/Carers, Families and Community Involvement at the Learning Community

The Learning Community recognises that parents and carers have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of their children. We ensure that they participate in decisions affecting their children.

We ensure that families and relevant communities (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, other communities that make up our Staff and student cohort, and the local community in which our Learning Community operates) know about the Learning Community's operations and policies, including the Child Safe Policy and Child

Safe Codes of Conduct, record keeping practices, risk management, and complaints and investigation processes.

We actively seek to include families and relevant communities in decisions about organisational planning, delivery of services, management of facilities, and learning and assessment environments.

We build cultural safety at the Learning Community through partnerships with relevant communities.

Valuing Diversity in the Learning Community

Our Learning Community values diversity and does not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this, we:

- support the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families
- support the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families
- support students with disability and their families and act to promote their participation
- support students and families of diverse sexuality and act to promote their participation
- welcome students and families of diverse sexuality and act to promote their participation
- seek to recruit a workforce that reflects a diversity of cultures, abilities and identities
- ensure that all Staff and Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors have training about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, disability, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and communities with particular experiences or needs
- have a physical environment that actively celebrates diverse cultures and recognises cultural difference
- commit to ensuring that our facilities promote the inclusion of students of all abilities.

Our Child Safe Program

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is committed to the effective implementation of our Child Safe Program and ensuring that it is appropriately reviewed and updated. We adopt a risk management approach by identifying key risk indicators and assessing Child Safe risks based on a range of factors including the nature of our Learning Community's activities, physical and online environments and the characteristics of the student body.

Our Child Safe Program relates to all aspects of child safety and protecting students from harm, and establishes work systems, practices, policies and procedures to create and maintain a Child Safe environment and culture at the Learning Community. It includes:

- Child Safe Codes of Conduct
- clear information as to what constitutes harm and associated key indicators of different forms of harm
- procedures for reporting to external agencies, including Mandatory Notifications to the Department for Child Protection (DCP), and Reporting to Police, which make clear that all Staff, Volunteers and Contractors must, as their first priority, fulfill their legal obligations to report harm or risk of harm to a child to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) and to Police
- clear procedures for reporting Child Safe incidents or concerns internally, and for responding to incidents or allegations of harm
- strategies to support, encourage and enable Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, parents/carers and students to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters
- procedures for recruiting and screening members of the Leadership Team, Staff, Volunteers and Contractors
- pastoral care strategies designed to empower students and keep them safe
- strategies to support and encourage the participation and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and students with disability
- child safe training
- information regarding the steps to take after a disclosure of harm to protect, support and assist students
- guidelines with respect to record keeping and confidentiality
- policies to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and standards (including the National Principles)

- a system for continuous review and improvement.

As a part of Good Shepherd Lutheran School's induction process, all Staff, as well as Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors are required to complete induction in our child safe policies, practices and procedures. All Staff, as well as Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors also receive refresher and ongoing child safe training.

Staff, Direct Contact and Regular Volunteers, and Direct Contact and Regular Contractors are supported and supervised by the Learning Community's Child Safety Contact Officers and Leadership Team to ensure that they are compliant with the Learning Community's approach to child safety.

Reporting Child Safety Incidents or Concerns Externally and to the Learning Community

Any person, including a Staff member, Volunteers, Contractors, parent/carer or a student, can at any time report a reasonable suspicion about harm to a child or young person directly to CARL on 13 14 78 or [online](#).

CARL is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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

If you need guidance on making a report, or have questions regarding child safety, contact one of the Child Safety Contact Officers.

Our Child Safe Program provides detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child safety incidents and concerns to relevant external authorities.

It also contains detailed guidance for members of the Board, Staff, Volunteers and Contractors on how to identify key indicators of different forms of harm to children and young people and how to report child safety incidents or concerns:

- to relevant external authorities, including CARL and the Police
- internally to one of our Learning Community's Child Safety Contact Officers.

Students at the Learning Community are provided with information about and encouraged to use multiple pathways to raise child safety incidents or concerns about or at the Learning Community. These include by contacting CARL and/or by reporting internally to the Learning Community via informal and formal ways, an 'anonymous' way, and through external child advocacy or child safety organisations.

Parents/carers, family members and other community members who have child safety concerns or who suspect that a child or young person associated with the Learning Community may be subject to harm should immediately contact CARL. They should then also contact:

- the Learning Community's Principal Evie Stevens, by phoning 0422 398 640 or emailing principal@gspv.sa.edu.au or
- if the concern relates to the Principal, the Chair of the Board.

Any person can also contact the Senior Child Safety Officer, or the Executive Director of LESNW, if they have concerns regarding the Learning Community's leadership in relation to child safety.

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.

Responsibilities for Child Safe at the Learning Community

Child safety is everyone's responsibility. All adults in the Learning Community have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of students. Specific responsibilities include:

The Learning Community's Child Safety Contact Officers

A number of senior staff members are nominated as the Learning Community's Child Safety Contact Officers. Our Child Safety Contact Officers receive additional specialised training with respect to child safety and protection issues and can support Staff and Volunteers making a report to CARL. They are a point of contact for raising child safety concerns within the Learning Community, subsequent to

reporting directly to CARL. They are also responsible for championing child protection and safety within the Learning Community and assisting in coordinating responses to child safety incidents. Our Child Safety Contact Officers are:

Name	Position	Email Address
Evie Stevens	Principal	principal@gspv.sa.edu.au
Claudia Deanshaw	Deputy Principal Junior Primary	claudiad@gspv.sa.edu.au
Therese Abraham	Deputy Principal Senior Primary	theresea@gspv.sa.edu.au
Jasmyn Nicholls	Director ELC	jasmyn.nicholls@gspv.sa.edu.au
Mark Elliott	Business Director	mark.elliott@gspv.sa.edu.au
Skyla Charman	Director OSHC	skyla.charman@gspv.sa.edu.au

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has also appointed Evie Stevens, Principal as the Learning Community's Senior Child Safety Officer. The Senior Child Safety Officer is contactable by phone on 0422 398 640 or by emailing principal@gspv.sa.edu.au

The Senior Child Safety Officer has additional child safety responsibilities, such as being the Learning Community's contact person for child safety concerns or queries by parents/carers and other members of the wider Learning Community and coordinating the Learning Community's response to child safety incidents in consultation with the Leadership Team and the Board.

The Board

The Board is the Learning Community's governing body. It is responsible for approving our Child Safe Program and ensuring that the Learning Community has appropriate resources to effectively implement the National Principles and our Child Safe Program.

The Board's Child Safeguarding Champion

One member of The Board is appointed or identified as a Child Safeguarding Champion. The Child Safeguarding Champion is responsible for ensuring that a child safe culture is prioritised, modelled and championed at the Board level of the Learning Community.

The Principal

The Principal is responsible, and will be accountable for, the operational management of the Learning Community, and the Child Safe Program. The Principal is responsible for taking all practical measures to ensure that this Child Safe Policy and the Learning Community's Child Safe Program is implemented effectively and that a strong and sustainable child safe culture is maintained within the Learning Community.

The Learning Community Leadership Team

Each member of the Learning Community Leadership Team is required to ensure that appropriate resources are made available in their area of operations to allow the Learning Community's Child Safe Program to be effectively implemented within the Learning Community, and to support the Principal in the practical application of the Learning Community's child safe strategies, policies, procedures and work systems.

Staff Members

All Staff are required to comply with our Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Codes of Conduct, be familiar with our Child Safe Program and understand their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of harm and risk of harm to children and young people, and Working with Children Checks.

Each current and new Learning Community staff member is required to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and acknowledged the Learning Community's Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Codes of Conduct.

It is each individual's responsibility to be aware of key indicators of harm and risk of harm, to be observant, to meet their legal obligations to report harm and risk of harm directly to CARL and the Police, and subsequently to raise all child safety incidents and concerns with one of the Child Safety Contact Officers.

Volunteers

All Volunteers at the Learning Community are responsible for contributing to the safety and protection of students in the Learning Community environment.

All Volunteers are required to comply with our Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Codes of Conduct and are required to understand their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of harm and risk of harm to children and young people.

Relevant Volunteers, as set out in the Child Safe Human Resources Management section below, are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check.

It is each individual's responsibility to be aware of key indicators of harm and risk of harm to children and young people, to be observant, to meet their legal obligations to report harm and risk of harm directly to CARL and the Police, and subsequently to raise all child safety incidents and concerns with one of the Child Safety Contact Officers.

Contractors

All Contractors engaged by the Learning Community are responsible for contributing to the safety and protection of students in the Learning Community environment.

All Contractors engaged by the Learning Community are required to comply with our Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Codes of Conduct. Direct Contact and Regular Contractors are required to understand their legal obligations with respect to the reporting of harm and risk of harm to children and young people.

Relevant Contractors, as set out in the Child Safe Human Resources Management section below, are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check.

The Learning Community may include these requirements in the written agreement between it and the Contractor. Relevant contractors are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check as set out in the Child Safe Human Resources Management section, below.

Direct Contact and Regular Contractors include, for example, maintenance and building personnel, consultants, casual teachers, tutors, sports coaches and Learning Community cleaners. This also includes music teachers and other extra-curricular teachers and instructors who are engaged by students and their families directly, rather than the Learning Community, but have an agreement with the Learning Community to use the Learning Community's facilities.

External Education Providers

An External Education Provider is any organisation that the Learning Community has arranged to deliver a specified course of study that is part of the curriculum, to a student or students enrolled at the Learning Community. The delivery of such a course may take place on Learning Community premises or elsewhere.

All External Education Providers engaged by the Learning Community are responsible for contributing to the safety and protection of students in all Learning Community environments. They must have lodged a child safe environments statement to the Department of Human Services prior to being engaged by the Learning Community.

All External Education Providers engaged by the Learning Community are required by the Learning Community to comply with our Child Safe Policy and Child Safe Codes of Conduct.

The Learning Community may include these requirements in the written agreement between it and the External Education Provider.

Child Safe Human Resources Management

Good Shepherd Lutheran School applies best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of Staff, Volunteers and Contractors. Our recruitment procedures comply with the Learning Community's Child Safe Human Resources Management and ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to engage the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children and young people. All Staff, Direct Contact and Regular Volunteers and Direct Contact and Regular Contractors at the Learning Community are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check.

The Learning Community ensures that the Leadership Team, Staff and relevant Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors undergo child safe induction, and ongoing education and training as part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people from harm.

Staff, Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors are provided with regular supervision and performance monitoring by their manager/a senior member of Staff.

The Learning Community ensures that professional development programs for Staff include child safe education and training programs.

Child Safe Risk Management

The Learning Community recognises the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for harm to children and young people to occur and we use this information to inform our policies, procedures and activity planning.

The Learning Community has developed a comprehensive Risk Management Program to assist in the identification, assessment and management of child safety risks in all Learning Community environments.

Record Keeping

The Learning Community has a Child Safe Record Keeping policy and is committed to best practice record keeping.

When keeping records of Child Safe incidents or concerns, the Learning Community maintains confidentiality and privacy for students and families in accordance with federal privacy legislation.

Program Review

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Safe Program. The Program as a whole is reviewed annually for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards.

When undertaking these reviews, the Learning Community actively seeks, actions, and incorporates feedback from students, families, the wider Learning Community, Staff, Volunteers and Contractors, and will communicate any adjustments or amendments widely throughout the Learning Community.

Non-Compliance with Our Child Safe Policy

Good Shepherd Lutheran School enforces this Child Safe Policy and our Child Safe Codes of Conduct. In the event of any non-compliance, we will instigate a review that may result in a range of measures including (depending on the severity of the breach):

- remedial education
- counselling
- increased supervision
- the restriction of duties
- suspension
- in the case of serious breaches, termination of employment, contract or engagement.

Policy Review

This Child Safe Policy has been approved by The Board on September 2022.

The Policy is reviewed at least biennially, in light of experience, the effectiveness of procedures and the publication of relevant research.

Development/Review Team:	LESNW/ CompliSpace
Policy Endorsed:	April 2024 Principal
Policy Approved:	April 2024 School Board Chairperson
Review Period:	2 years
Version:	3.1 Supersedes Version 2.0
Review History:	2019, 2022, 2024