Statement of Commitment to Student Safety and Wellbeing

Westside Christian College
Achievement Belonging Care

Purpose	This statement articulates the commitment of the College to the protection, safety and wellbeing of the students and children under its care.		
Scope	This commitment applies across all operations of the College. All workers share responsibility for creating and maintaining a safe environment.		
Status	Approved	**Version**	1.1
Owner	Head of College		
Approved by	APCCS Board Chair	**Date**	July 2026
References	Legislation and relevant instruments		College Policies, Procedures and Documents
	• *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024* (Qld) • *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (Qld) • *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017* (Qld) • *Work Health Safety Act 2011* (Qld) • National Principles for Child Safe Organisations • Queensland's Reportable Conduct Scheme • 10 Child Safe Standards and Universal Principal		• Child and Student Protection Policy and Procedures • Child Risk Management Strategy • Code of Conduct • Complaints Handling Policy • Recruitment Policy • Student Enrolment Agreement • Wellbeing Framework
Review	Biannually	**Next Review**	July 2028
Definitions	"Worker" - A worker is a person who performs work of any kind for the College, including but not limited to an employee, Board member, volunteer, contractor, subcontractor, consultant, trainee, pre-service teacher, person on work experience, minister of religion, religious leader, youth worker or officer of a religious body, service provider.		

At Westside Christian College we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing Christian learning environment where every child and young person is valued, respected, protected, and empowered to flourish. Guided by our Christian faith and the belief that every person is created in the image of God, we place the safety, wellbeing and dignity of students at the centre of all that we do.

We have zero tolerance for abuse, neglect, grooming, bullying, harassment, discrimination, racism and any behaviour that compromises the safety or wellbeing of children and young people. We are committed to fostering a culture where students feel known, heard, respected, cared for and safe.

We actively implement the 10 Child Safe Standards while upholding the Universal Principle with the aim of creating and maintaining a child-safe culture and environment.

We are committed to:

1. Embedding child safety and wellbeing in leadership, governance, and organisational culture.
2. Ensuring children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them, and are taken seriously.

3. Ensuring families and our community are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Upholding equity and respecting diverse needs in policy and practice.
5. Ensuring that people working with children 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. Equipping staff and volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Creating both physical and online environments that promote safety and minimise opportunities for harm.
9. Continually review and improve our implementation of the Child Safe Standards.
10. Documenting, communicating, and maintaining policies and procedures that support child safety and wellbeing.

Cultural Safety

The College is committed to providing a culturally safe, inclusive and respectful environment where students of all cultures, are welcome, valued, supported and empowered to thrive.

We acknowledge the special place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families as people of the First Nations of this country. We are committed to reconciliation, understanding and celebrating the histories, cultures, languages and contributions of First Nations peoples, and fostering culturally responsive practices across the College.

Workers

All workers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the College's Christian ethos and values, treating children and students with care and respect, and having concern for their safety and protection. They must maintain appropriate professional boundaries, comply with the College's Code of Conduct, complete required training, and act in the best interests of students at all times. Workers are required to identify and respond appropriately to signs of abuse, neglect, harm, or risk, and to fulfil all mandatory reporting obligations under Queensland law and College policy.

Students

Students are expected to contribute to a safe and respectful school culture by treating others with dignity, kindness, and respect. Students are encouraged to speak up about concerns for their own safety or the safety of others and will be supported when doing so. The College promotes student voice and seeks meaningful student participation in matters affecting wellbeing and safety.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are valued partners in the education and wellbeing of students. They are expected to support the College's child-safe culture, uphold respectful conduct, communicate concerns appropriately, work collaboratively with the College to promote the safety and wellbeing of all students.

The College recognises its legal and moral responsibilities regarding child protection. All staff understand their obligations to report suspected harm, abuse, neglect, sexual misconduct, or other safety concerns in accordance with legislation and College procedures. Where and as required by law, concerns will be reported to the Head of College or Board Chair and forwarded as required to relevant authorities such as the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety; Queensland Police Service; Queensland Family & Child Commission; and Queensland College of Teachers.

Student safety and wellbeing are fundamental to our mission as a Christian college. Through responsible leadership, effective policies, respectful relationships, and a shared commitment to the learning, formation and protection of our children, we seek to ensure that every student is safe, supported, valued, and able to thrive so that they may experience and enjoy the fullness of life that God has for them.