

St Peter's Box Hill

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL



1. Our Commitment to Child Safety
2. Child Safety Policy
3. Code of Conduct
4. Risk Management of Child Safety
5. Statement of Commitment

1. Our Commitment to Child Safety

The Anglican Parish of Box Hill is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people we come into contact with and will endeavour to provide a safe and supportive environment for these children and young people through the safety measures outlined in this document which all clergy, staff and volunteers are required to sign.

The Anglican Parish of Box Hill has 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. We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

2. Child Safety Policy

This Policy applies to all staff or church workers, including senior leadership, paid staff, volunteers, church wardens, parish councillors or anyone working for, or on behalf of St Peter's at the Anglican Parish of Box Hill.

DEFINITIONS

Child: a person who is under the age of 18 years

Child Abuse: Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Emotional and Psychological abuse

Neglect

Racial, Cultural and Religious abuse

Spiritual abuse

Church worker: each member of the clergy and each lay minister; and each lay person, remunerated or voluntary, holding a role office or position in a congregation of the Anglican Parish of Box Hill. This includes rostered readers, intercessors, welcomers, sidespersons, servers, choir members, organists, pastoral care visitors or any volunteer doing work for our church.

St Peter's follows the Child Safety Policy of the Anglican Church of Australia, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. It can be read with this link: [Anglican Diocese of Melbourne Child Safety Policy](#)

WE COMMIT TO

a) Providing a safe environment for children

St Peter's will provide a safe and friendly environment for children through its ministry and activities. The care, safety and welfare of children is part of the ethos and Christian life of St Peter's and is supported through its policies.

b) Having a clear Code of Conduct

We are adopting and implementing the Code of Conduct set out by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne for all staff and volunteers, including boundaries of behaviour and expectations of interactions with children. All church workers will be required to read and sign agreement to our Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate behaviour will be reported through appropriate channels, including the Kooyoora Office of Professional Standards the Department of Health and Human Services and Victoria Police, depending on the severity and urgency of the matter.

c) Training and supervision of leaders and other staff.

We at St Peter's Church are committed to regularly training and educating our office holders, staff and volunteers on child safety issues. They must all agree to abide by our Code of Conduct for Child Safety, which specifies the standards of conduct and guidelines required when working with children.

Training and education are important to ensure that everyone in the Church understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

c) Safe recruitment of leaders.

All prospective leaders in our ministries, before they are appointed will be required to have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC) and a current Police Check), to

sign our Code of Conduct and new employees and volunteers will be supervised regularly to ensure they understand the Church's commitment to child safety and that everyone has a role to play in protecting children from abuse, as well as checking that their behaviour towards children is safe and appropriate.

d) Responding to allegations of risk of harm (abuse)

All employees and volunteers will be made aware of what child abuse is and the legal obligation to report concerns about child abuse to a member of the clergy or Child Safety Officer who will act in accordance with the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne Code of Conduct. This allegation will be acted on in accordance with mandatory reporting.

e) Responding to disclosures of abuse

St Peter's is aware of mandatory reporting of child abuse and will respond to any disclosures of abuse by taking them seriously and acting in accordance with the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne Code of Conduct.

f) Regular Review

The Anglican Parish of Box Hill will review this policy every two year and ensure that members of the parish and families and children associated with it have an opportunity to contribute.

Child Safe Officer

The Child Safe Officer in a parish or congregation or in the Cathedral is a point of contact for those who have questions or concerns

LOCATION: St Peter's Anglican Church, Box Hill

CHILD SAFE OFFICER POSITION: Office Administrator

CHILD SAFE OFFICER NAME: Cecilia Joyner

CHILD SAFE OFFICER NUMBER: 041 4366 508

KOOYOORA Office of Professional Standards.

The Kooyoora Office of Professional Standards responds as required to all complaints of misconduct including sexual, physical, spiritual or emotional abuse by clergy or Church officers. Any reporting of abuse to the Church must be to the Director of Professional Standards at the Kooyoora office. The first step in making a complaint is to call the recorded information line at any time on: 1800 135 246.

3. Code of Conduct

The Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Code of Conduct for Child Safety in the Anglican Parish of Box Hill is the code of conduct of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. It is to be found online at:

<https://www.kooyoorra.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Child-Safe-Code-of-Conduct-Final-22.3.2018.pdf>

4. Risk Management of Child Safety

Risks to child safety in the Anglican Parish of Box Hill have been identified as in possible in these situations where children are present on occasions without parental supervision:

- Sunday School
- Play Group
- Family and Children's Service.

In all these activities the Church worker must:

- (a) conduct all child related activities in well lit areas-
 - (i) which are open and can be observed by other adults;
 - (ii) which have doors to rooms or offices left open;
 - (iii) with no fewer than two adults present at all times during a class, program, rehearsal, event or ministry involving children and young people;
- (b) except where impracticable, avoid being alone with a child in a motor vehicle or driving a child home unaccompanied. If such a situation is unavoidable, inform your ministry supervisor of the trip and the reason for it.
- (c) ensure any contact with children and young people is appropriate and within the parameters of the program or event
- (d) model good conduct in the activities conducted
- (e) ensure all behaviour is in accord with the St Peter's Code of Conduct and Child Safe Policy.

5. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Code of Conduct for Child Safety

I acknowledge that I hold the following roles offices or position as a Church worker in the Anglican Parish of Box Hill:

...
...
...

I have read, understood and agree to be bound by the attached Code of Conduct for Child Safety and to observe the standards and, unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so, follow the guidelines set out above.

I acknowledge that the Church expects me to uphold at all times the standards of behaviour described in the Code of Conduct and, to follow the guidelines there stated.

I also understand that as a Church worker, I am accountable under the Professional Standards legislation of the Diocese and otherwise for any failure on my part to uphold the standards and follow the guidelines of the Code.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature

Date

Witness Name _____

Witness Signature