

Our Child Safe Commitment

Cornish College is committed to child safety.

All children at the College should feel safe, happy and empowered.

Our commitments

Cornish College has zero tolerance of child abuse, and we treat all allegations and safety concerns seriously.

- We are committed to preventing child abuse, identifying risks early and removing or reducing these risks
- We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability
- We are committed to our legal and moral obligation to contact authorities when a concern is raised about a child's safety

Our actions

Our *Child Safe Policy* outlines the specific policies, procedures and training that support children, staff and volunteers.

We have appointed Child Safety Officers who are the first point of call for students, parents and anyone in the community that has concerns about the safety of a child in our care.

If you have a reasonable belief that a child in our care is being abused, please contact our Senior Child Safety Officer, Principal Nicola Forrest, on 9781 9000.

See our website for more information about our commitment, and policies and procedures that promote child safety: www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/values



Why do we need a Child Safe Commitment?

Protecting children and young people from abuse is everyone's responsibility.

The Victorian Government has developed Child Safe Standards to help ensure we do just that. The minimum standards are compulsory in Victoria for Early Childhood Services and Schools. They ensure there are systems and processes in place to protect children from abuse and neglect. This was one of the recommendations from the Betrayal of Trust report.

The Child Safe Commitment demonstrates an organisation is prepared to meet the standards. The organisation commits to safeguarding children and young people and responding to any allegations of abuse.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is the mistreatment by an adult of a child or young person that harms or endangers their physical or emotional health or wellbeing.

It includes:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Emotional or physiological harm
- Neglect
- Family violence

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse, call 000.

What is the supporting legislation?

Supporting legislation to protect children and young people includes:

Failure to disclose:

Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 years old, have an obligation to report that information to the police.

Failure to protect:

People of authority at the College commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse, and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.

Mandatory Reporting:

Teachers are Mandatory Reporters and must comply with their duties, reporting suspected cases of abuse and neglect.

Further information

Find out more about Child Safe Standards on the Commission for Children and Young People's website at:

www.ccpv.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards

Find out more about the Betrayal of Trust report and legislation via the Department of Justice www.justice.vic.gov.au and its related pages:

- Safer Communities
www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities
- Protecting Children and Families
www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families