



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Commitment Statement to Child Safety

We are committed to a safe and nurturing environment for all children and young people in our Church.

The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (the Diocese) holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as one of its central and fundamental responsibilities. The commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice, and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

We want our children and young people to be safe, happy, and empowered.

The protection of children and young people is a primary duty of the Diocese. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the Church promote the inherent dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, and children who are same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations, and our Church policies.

Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by all persons in parishes, schools, families, communities, and ministries. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches in policies, procedures, and practices.

We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and then reducing or removing them. The Child Safety officer of the Diocese should be contacted in matters of concern childsafety@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Every person involved in the Catholic Church has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.