
**Statement of
Commitment to
Child Safety**

Our parish is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children.

For the children who belong to or visit our parish, we will provide a child safe environment. This means that we will act to ensure that children feel safe, are safe, and can participate appropriately, actively, and confidently in the divine services and in the broader life of our parish.

We have zero tolerance for any form of harm to or abuse of children. This includes emotional abuse, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and the improper use of spiritual authority.

Our Orthodox Christian parish is one of Russian tradition that is nevertheless multi-cultural and brings together families and individuals of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and needs. We value both our unity and our diversity and are committed to words and actions that make this clear to our children and the children who visit us.

We have publicly available policies and procedures in place to support these commitments, and we will provide our clergy, office-bearers, and volunteers with the necessary information, training, and other resources to ensure compliance.

We know that it can be hard for children to clearly express concerns about their safety, and that when they do come forward, they are often not believed. We will build an environment of trust and take all allegations and safety concerns seriously. They will be dealt with promptly, respectfully, and in accordance with our policies and procedures and, whenever necessary, New South Wales law.

We will engage sensitively with survivors of abuse and actively seek their input into our policies, procedures, and training. We will particularly draw on the experience of survivors of abuse in our own broader Russian Orthodox community.

All who belong to or visit our parish will be advised of our commitment to child safety and of their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children while here.
