

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus beautifully invites children to come to him. In Jesus' kingdom children are fully welcome and this needs to be reflected in our church's life. Part of being welcome is to be safe. In John 14:23ff we read about Jesus bringing the love of his Father to us. In John 10:11 we read that Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. In Psalm 139 we see God's commitment and care for children is from the very moment of his knowledge of them. We also see Jesus' care for all people in how he treats the Samaritan woman and the man with leprosy. We see God's tender care for all people and in verses like John 3:16 where we are reminded that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Our commitment to the safety of all people at St Mark's flows out of our love for Jesus and the knowledge that they are loved and treasured by Him. We acknowledge that this has not always been the case for all people at all churches in Australia. We are committed to ensuring that St Mark's is known as a safe place for all people, especially children and young people.

We seek to ensure that all adults and young people can feel safe at St Mark's in a number of ways.

1. We seek to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all of our lives.
2. We actively seek to serve our community.
3. We live out our faith being empowered by the Holy Spirit.
4. We actively desire to make the gospel of Jesus known.
5. We want to ensure that all our gatherings are safe places for all people, especially children and young people. To be safe all people need to be fully informed about what a safe church is.
6. In accordance with Paul's instructions, we are committed to obeying our governing authorities in how we authorise people and identify safe spaces.

In order to fulfil Diocesan and Government regulations we will implement point 5 & 6 through the following actions:

Training/commitment required	What it is	Who must complete it	Time it takes to complete	Expiry
Read and sign the Code of Conductⁱ	An outline of what you are committing to	All volunteers & staff	30 minutes	
Working with Children's Check	A Victorian Government process which checks you are safe to work with young people	All volunteers & staff	10-15 minutes	5 years
National Police Check	Checks for criminal record that would prevent volunteering	All volunteers & staff	10 minutes	5 years
Level One Training	This is a general information session about how the church is keeping everyone safe	All volunteers & staff & office bearers ⁱⁱ	40-90 minutes	3 years

Level Two Training	This is specifically about the safety of young people	All volunteer youth and children's leaders, staff & office bearers	40-90 minutes	3 years
Level Three Training	This session ensures you understand the material and can apply it	All staff & office bearers	60 minutes	3 years
Clearance for Service	A Diocesan process to ensure the safety of young people	All volunteer youth and children's leaders, staff & office bearers	15 minutes	5 years

We are thankful for St Mark's long-standing commitment to being a healthy church that is a safe place for all people. We want to maintain that commitment through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are thankful for your partnership in this area of the Gospel.

If you are unclear about the process or need help, please reach out to our Child Safe Officer, Pam Wardle and Assistant Child Safe Officer, Lizzie Schoer. If you have any concerns about this process, please contact the Acting Vicar (office@stmarkscamberwell.org.au).

Signature

Vicar, St Mark's Camberwell

Signatures

Wardens on behalf of St. Mark's Camberwell

ⁱ Anglican Diocese of Melbourne Code of Conduct for Child Safety & Wellbeing, updated April 2023. The previous Statement of Commitment is obsolete and all volunteers and staff must sign the new Code of Conduct.

ⁱⁱ 'Office bearers' includes Parish Council Members and Wardens.