



SAFE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy details the roles and responsibilities and statement of commitment Bible College SA has to ensuring safe ministry with children.

DEFINITIONS

Code of Conduct – a policy outlining Bible College SA's mission, values and principles linked with standards of professional conduct.

Department of Human Services (DHS) / Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) – recognised screening checks from these authorities are accepted until the expiry date

Department of Human Services (DHS) Screening Unit – the Government of South Australia division that provides checks of workers and volunteers to organisations, contributing to creating safe environments for children and other vulnerable people.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) – An assessment of whether a person poses an unacceptable risk to children. The Screening Unit will look at criminal history, child protection information and other information.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employed staff, enrolled students and the Board of Directors at Bible College SA.

RATIONALE

Bible College SA recognises its duty of care and responsibility for the welfare of all persons within the College community including children (persons under 18 years). All employees and volunteers, have a duty to create a safe environment for children, safeguarding them from harm including neglect, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

GOVERNANCE

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Bible College SA has specific responsibility to approve policies and ensure appropriate consultation, information, training, instruction, supervision, monitoring, auditing and resources are available for child safety matters.

Statement of Commitment

The Board of Bible College SA will uphold the following principles to safeguard children and vulnerable persons and to ensure legislative requirements are met:

- The Board is committed to the safety and holistic wellbeing of all children involved in its events.
- The Board takes child protection and safety seriously and therefore has policies and procedures in place to safeguard children from harm including emotional, physical, neglect and sexual abuse.
- The Board will not tolerate any form of child abuse or sexual exploitation.

The Board will demonstrate commitment, capability and consistency in the provision of ministry where children may be present and:

- Provide a Code of Conduct for interacting with children;
- Communicate the Code of Conduct to all employees, volunteers and others;
- Protect members of the College community known to be survivors of abuse from further harm and provide appropriate support;
- Require all staff and volunteers to report any allegation of abuse made against any member of the College community to the Board and the South Australian Police Service immediately upon becoming aware of it;
- Require all third parties using College facilities to have appropriate Codes of Conduct for the protection of children in place;
- Require all permanent staff to have an active South Australian Working with Children Check (WWCC) issued by the Department of Human Services (DHS), which is to be submitted to the appropriate authority at the College (DHS/DCSI screens are accepted until the expiry date);
- Require all students to submit an active South Australian Working with Children Check (WWCC) issued by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on enrolment, which is to be submitted to the appropriate authority at the College (DHS/DCSI screens are accepted until the expiry date).

REVIEW

The Safe Ministry with Children Policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Board of Directors.

RELATED POLICIES

Code of Conduct