



# CBC Fremantle

## Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

2019

## **Objectives**

This Statement provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing, deter inappropriate interactions and facilitate detection of abuse and grooming within the College;
- the creation of a safe and supportive College environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the College; and
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in WA.

## **Statement of Commitment**

CBC Fremantle is committed to providing education and care to boys and young men to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported young adults, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all boys and young men at the College and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and grooming by implementing robust policies and procedures to deter abuse and grooming and facilitate detection and reporting at the College.

The College's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety has been designed to reflect the Child Safe Organisations WA: Guidelines and focus on what is best for children.

At CBC Fremantle, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and grooming. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance and as such is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain safe and supportive College physical and online environments for all children and young people.

## **Child-Safe Values & Principles**

The following child-safe values and principles guide the College's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the College.

1. All children have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
3. The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct and Staff Code of Conduct.
5. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child-safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our College community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Direct Contact Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all College staff members and EREA Governing Body Board members.

10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and grooming are simple and accessible for all members of the College community.
11. Procedures are in place to ensure all College premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

See also the EREA Commitment Statement to Child Safety.

### **Standards of Behaviour**

The College demands the highest standards of behaviour for all stakeholders interacting with boys and young men in our College environments. The EREA Child Safe Code of Conduct clearly outlines expected standards of behaviour and the consequences if stakeholders fail to meet the College's expectations.

### **Responsibilities**

The College acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

At CBC Fremantle all members of the College staff, Direct and Indirect Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.

Specific responsibilities for each group of the College community are further explained in the "Who is Responsible for Child Protection?" appended to this document.

### **Reporting Child Protection Concerns**

Our Child Protection Programme provides detailed guidance for all members of the College community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and grooming and how to report child protection concerns to the Principal or Vice Principal, and our Child Safety Officers. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse and grooming incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, Volunteers, students, parents/guardians and other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse or grooming are asked to contact the College's Senior Child Safety Officer, Neil Alweyn, Deputy Principal, by phoning 08 9336 2700 or emailing [neila@cbcfremantle.wa.edu.au](mailto:neila@cbcfremantle.wa.edu.au).

Where the concern relates to the Principal or Vice Principal, report to the EREA Regional Director via the EREA National Office at (03) 9426 3200.

In accordance with the WA Registration Standards for Non-Government Schools (Section 9.2), Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia, as the governing body of CBC Fremantle, ensures the Director General of WA Department of Education is notified as soon as practicable (and in any event within 48 hours) of a breach or suspected breach of the EREA Child Safe Code of Conduct; particularly where such breaches relate to:

- Receipt of an allegation of child abuse, including but not limited to sexual abuse, committed against a student by a staff member or student, or another person on the school premises or

during school-related activities, whether the abuse is alleged to have occurred recently or in the past; or

- Issuing a formal warning to a staff member or ceasing the employment of a staff member for a breach of the EREA Child Safe Code of Conduct suspected to be grooming behaviour.

The Principal is delegated responsibility for completing and lodging the Critical and Emergency Incident Report Form with CEWA in accordance with CEWA's published procedures as soon as practicable and, in any event, within 48 hours of a critical or emergency incident. A copy of any Critical and Emergency Incident Report Form lodged with CEWA is concurrently lodged with the EREA Executive Director.

\* This statutory declaration is made in the broader context of child protection governance, notwithstanding Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia's (CECWA) gazetted position as the governing body of the system of Catholic schools in Western Australia for the purposes of the registration standards and section 160(1)(c) of the School Education Act.

\*\* It is Catholic Education Western Australia policy that CEWA is notified of all critical incidents at WA Catholic schools, including CBC Fremantle. CEWA will then notify the Director General of the Department of Education on behalf of the College.

All communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.

If you have any questions regarding the College's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, and how it applies to you, the College's Child Safety Officers are available for advice.

### **Programme Compliance and Review**

CBC Fremantle is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Programme and to ensuring the College's compliance with WA child protection law and regulation.

The Programme is reviewed annually and updated regularly for overall effectiveness, in light of experience and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards. For more information, refer to the Continuous Review & Improvement section of our Child Protection Programme.