



Our Child-Safe Culture

The WA Registration Standards define a “child-safe environment” as “one in which children are protected from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological harm and from neglect. It is a safe and positive environment where children feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.”

Chapter 8 of the Guide – Levels of Care states that schools are expected to implement strategies to build a positive school culture that fosters caring and respectful relationships between students and their teachers.

At Penrhos College we are committed to creating a child-safe environment at the College through the creation and maintenance of a child-safe culture – a culture where child protection and safety is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of leaders, staff, volunteers and members of the College community.

We have developed the following work systems, practices, policies and procedures designed to create a child-safe culture including:

- a holistic approach to child protection through this Child Protection Program;
- the appointment of the College’s Child Protection Officers;
- establishing key child protection values and principles in our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety;
- establishing clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with students through our Child Safety Code of Conduct and Staff and Student Professional Boundaries policy;
- educating our staff, including boarding staff and Direct Contact Volunteers through our Child Protection Training;
- clear procedures for reporting alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse or grooming;
- recognition that children from culturally diverse backgrounds have the right to special care and support including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children;
- recognition that children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support; and
- clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of personnel involved in protecting children.