

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

The Australian International Academy (**the Academy**) has developed the following Statement of Commitment to Child Safety as an overarching statement that provides key elements of our approach to protecting children and young people from abuse and sets the tone for the Academy's Child Protection Program.

It is designed to be the Academy's public statement of commitment to child safety and a demonstration of the Academy's leaders' commitment to champion child safety in our school.

It has also been approved and endorsed by the Academy's School Board and is regularly reviewed by the School Board at least annually.

The Statement is published on our public website.

Objectives

This Statement provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within the Academy.
- the creation of a safe and supportive environment and a positive and robust child protection culture.
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the Academy.
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in NSW.

Statement of Commitment

The Academy is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The Academy is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people at the Academy and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and harm.

At the Academy, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse. The Academy 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 physical and online environments for all children and young people.

Child Safe Values and Principles

The following child safe principles guide the Academy's commitment to child safety and form the basis for all its child protection policies and procedures:

1. All children and young people have the right to be safe and treated fairly.
2. The welfare and best interests of children and young people are paramount.
3. The views and the privacy of children and young people must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children and young people are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct and related policies.

5. The safety of children and young people is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our school community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children and young people.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all Board members, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the Academy.
11. Procedures are in place to ensure all school premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

Child Protection Officers

As part of our commitment to child safety and protection, the School Board has appointed Child Protection Officers as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the school community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Child Protection Officers are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and the Child Protection Program.

Responsibilities

The Academy acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility. At the Academy, all members of the School Board, staff members, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children and young people.

Reporting Child Protection Concerns

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the school community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and how to report child abuse concerns to one of the Academy's nominated Child Protection Officers. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, students, parents/carers or other community members who have concerns that a child or young person may be subject to abuse are asked to contact one of the Academy's Child Protection Officers. 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.

Program Compliance and Review

The Academy is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program and to ensuring the Academy's compliance with NSW child protection law and regulation.

The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards.