

# Child Safe Policy

## Wilderness Arts College

*Aligned with the Child Safe Standards – Victoria (2022)*

## Commitment to Child Safety

Wilderness Arts College is committed to the safety, wellbeing, and inclusion of all children and young people. We hold a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and actively work to create an environment where students feel respected, safe, heard, and empowered. All members of our community — including staff, volunteers, families, and students — share responsibility for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and upholding our strong culture of child safety.

## Our Child Safety Responsibilities

Wilderness Arts College upholds the 11 Child Safe Standards introduced by the **Victorian Government** in 2022. These standards guide our policies, procedures, and daily practices. In line with these expectations, we will:

1. **Establish a culturally safe environment** that is inclusive of Aboriginal children and young people, and respectful of diverse identities.
2. **Empower children and young people** by involving them in decisions that affect them and encouraging their voices to be heard.
3. **Ensure families and communities are informed and involved**, recognising their vital role in child safety and wellbeing.
4. **Ensure equity and inclusion** so that all children feel valued, respected and safe, regardless of age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, language, culture or religious background.
5. **Maintain child-focused complaints processes** that are accessible and taken seriously.
6. **Engage in robust staff and volunteer recruitment, screening, training and supervision** to ensure only suitable adults work with our students.
7. **Promote ongoing education and training** to equip staff with the skills and knowledge needed to create and maintain child-safe environments.

8. **Take all allegations and safety concerns seriously**, responding promptly and in accordance with our reporting obligations.
9. **Maintain clear procedures for responding to suspected child abuse**, aligned with legal requirements and departmental guidance.
10. **Review and improve our child safety practices regularly**, ensuring continuous improvement and compliance.
11. **Embed child safety in our governance and leadership**, demonstrating that child safety is a shared and integrated priority.

## **Reporting Concerns**

All staff are mandatory reporters and must report any reasonable belief that a child is at risk of harm or abuse. Concerns can be reported to a staff member, and will be followed up immediately and confidentially in line with the *Child Safe Reporting Obligations*.

## **Contact for Child Safety Matters**

If you have any concerns regarding child safety, or wish to report or discuss a child safety issue, please contact:

**Christopher James** – Child Safety Officer

Phone: **0414 306 772**

Email: *wildernessartscollege@gmail.com*

## **Policy Access and Review**

This policy is reviewed annually and after any significant child safety incident or policy change. Printed copies are available upon request, and translated versions can be provided in your preferred language to ensure accessibility for all families.