

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT OF ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, WONTHAGGI

Central to the mission of St. Joseph's, Wonthaggi is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and all parishioners and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. Inspired by the Holy Family, we will treat everyone in the parish community with respect (modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe pastoral environment). We are committed to embracing the person and vision of Jesus, building with others, engaging in Christ's Mission in our Parish and wider community.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and parish council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have been abused or that they are worried about their safety or the safety of another child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance policy towards discrimination)
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, by ensuring reasonable care is taken to cater for any additional needs being faced)
- ensuring as far as practicable that an adult is not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the police
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)
- reporting any child safety concerns to the parish priest or the Professional Standards Officer if the concern relates to the parish priest
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.