

## St. John's Commitment to Our Children

The Anglican Parish of St. John's Toorak understands that we are all children of God. We are committed to loving and serving everyone, not just those that are active in our parish. That love and service is unconditional.

We embrace the engagement and participation of children of all ages and backgrounds in the life of our parish. We are committed to providing opportunities for children to grow in their love and understanding of God and God's Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We demonstrate our love for children in many ways, first and foremost in welcoming them as full members of the Kingdom of God. We acknowledge our responsibility to maintain an inclusive environment where children of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal children, and children with particular learning or developmental needs are not only welcomed, but are provided opportunities to grow.

To support this love, St. John's is committed to ensuring a safe environment for every child.

Our culture is one where child safety is paramount and one where parishioners will speak up if they have any concerns.

Our clergy encourage parishioners to approach them if issues arise, and will provide advice on any action that needs to be taken. Allegations and concerns are taken seriously.

A key element of our culture of child safety is to not only guarantee compliance with relevant regulations and checks, but to live our parish lives wholeheartedly committed to the safety of our children.

All at St. John's working directly with children are required to have a current Working with Children check, and in some instances, a National Police check, and records of all checks are maintained. We also require those involved to adhere to our Code of Conduct.

Our parish is a member of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. The Diocese provides extensive resources regarding child safety and making complaints. Information regarding the making of complaints is available on 1800 135 246. Resources can be accessed via <u>www.melbourneanglican.org.au</u>

We encourage reporting matters to the police, child protection agencies, and other authorities where appropriate.