



Mercedes College is committed to being a child safe organisation through the prevention, identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

This includes the provision of support to children who have been abused; or are affected by abuse or neglect. Central to the mission of Mercy Education is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. (Mercy Education Code of Conduct).

Mercedes believe that students should know that they are valued as people. This pastoral dimension should influence every aspect of their life. Mercedes College is proud to be a Child-Safe School, Mercedes College undertakes to follow the 10 National Principles for being a Child Safe Organisation:

1. A commitment to child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is promoted, and diversity is respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes for complaints and concerns are responsive, understood, accessible and used by children, young people, families, staff and volunteers.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Organisations regularly review and improve implementation of their child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people. The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is a child safety program for children and young people which has been implemented from year 7 to Year 12 at Mercedes College.

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The KS:CPC fits primarily within the Health and Physical Education learning area of the Australian Curriculum but is also taught across other learning areas such as Religious Education, as well as through our guest speaker and selected Reflection Day/ Retreat Programs.

The aim of The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is to teach all children from a young age, in an age-appropriate way, to:

- Recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult about it
- Understand what appropriate and inappropriate touching is
- Understand ways of keeping themselves safe.

The themes are:

- We all have the right to do be safe
- We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust The focus areas are:
- The right to be safe
- Relationships
- Recognising and reporting abuse
- Protective strategies

Parents can access more information on the KS:CPC website:

www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/curriculum-and-learning/early-years/keeping-safe-child-protection-curriculum-information-parents-and-carers

