



2023 EDITION

BREAKING THE SILENCE

Keeping You Safe at Camping Activities with the Presbyterian Church HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

POLICY STATEMENT

This is what leaders in the Presbyterian Church NSW promise they will do.

- We will respect everyone's minds, feelings, and bodies. The church has a code of conduct for leaders to follow to keep everyone safe.
- We will always do our best to show that you can trust us by being safe and respectful.
- You can speak to us if you are worried about anything. If you are feeling uncomfortable about going to a leader, ask a friend to come with you.
- You can talk to us or a trusted adult (like a parent who is at church/at camp) who will listen to you if you are worried about something at camp/church.
- You will get help if you do speak up. We will ask what will help you to feel safe and offer help and support. Speaking up can help others be safe too.
- If someone is doing something that is hurting others or making others feel uncomfortable or unsafe it is important to tell a leader. We will work out what needs to happen to help everyone be safe.
- One way we help everyone to be safe is by always having at least 2 leaders present at any activity. Leaders are never to be alone with children or young people and we make sure other people can see us when we are together in a group.
- As a church we need to follow the **Child Safe Standards**. These are standards from the Office of the Children's Guardian to help churches and other organisations be safe places.
- Our leaders receive information and training to make sure they know and follow the rules to keep children and young people safe.
- We are not allowed to have boyfriend/girlfriend relationships with children or teenagers we are caring for in our groups.
- We will keep what you tell us confidential and only tell leaders or other adults who need to know. If someone is in danger, we may need to tell other people whose job it is to keep children and families safe. We will tell you if we need to tell others.
- The Conduct Protocol Unit (CPU) is the name for the group in the church which helps leaders to keep everyone safe. Leaders can tell the CPU if they are very worried about a child or children so that the people who work in the CPU can help the leaders to help everyone to be safe.