

SAFE CHURCH COMMITMENT STATEMENT

**LUGAR
BRAE
UNITING
CHURCH**



Lugar Brae Uniting Church Safe Church Commitment Statement

We believe that all people, including children and vulnerable adults, are made in the image of God, and that our relationships with each other should express love, integrity, compassion and respect. We recognize everyone who is involved in any of the church's activities, services, events or programs has a right to feel and be safe. We therefore acknowledge our moral and legal responsibility to ensure the safety of children and young people involved with any Church activities.

As a church, we are committed to providing environments which are physically, emotionally and spiritually safe for all people including children, so that they may live life in all its fullness. We have zero tolerance of any form of child abuse and will do all in our power to keep children and vulnerable adults safe from abuse. Protecting children and vulnerable adults is both an individual and a collective responsibility of the Uniting Church, and all who engage with it.

This commitment will be central to our decision-making and guide our practice. We will seek to understand our risk areas and develop strategies which aim to prevent and minimize risks to children and young people as far as possible, taking an approach of continuous improvement.

We are committed to implementing the Safe Church Policy Framework, and to the ongoing development of a child safe organization, in particular through implementation of the UCA Child Safe Principles. We welcome feedback from anyone with an interest in this commitment, including children.

The UCA Child Safe Principles

Lugar Brae Uniting Church will continue to embed a child safe culture through the implementation of the UCA Child Safe Principles, and so the following standards are met:

1. Child safety and well-being is embedded in organizational 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 well-being
4. Diversity is respected and equity is promoted
5. Our people are suitable for work with children and committed to the values of child safety and well-being
6. Child-focused complaints processes are in place
7. Our people are provided with ongoing education and training on child safety
8. Physical and online environments promote safety
9. Policies and procedures document child safety
10. Review and continuous improvement of policy, procedure and practice.

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