



EQUIPPING LEADERS TO ENGAGE, HANDLE & TEACH GOD'S WORD

CHILD SAFE POLICY

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VERSION RELEASE HISTORY

| Version | Effective date | Remark |
|---------|----------------|---|
| 1.1 | 28 Sep 2022 | Adding clarity to the definition of 'Child' |
| 1.0 | 03 Nov 2021 | Initial version |

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose and scope

This policy sets out our commitment to child safety for all children in childminding during the Engage Leaders conference.

In accordance with the law of Victoria, the words 'children' and 'child' include all people aged under 18 years old. Engage provides childminding only for children up to and including 8 years old i.e., children aged between 9 to 17 years old are not allowed to take part in Engage. Hence, the words 'children' and 'child' in this policy effectively apply to people up to and including 8 years old only.

1.2. Related documents

Table 1 Related policies and forms

| Title |
|----------------------------|
| Child Safe Code of Conduct |

2. CHILD SAFE POLICY

Engage is committed to child safety and wants all children in childminding during the conference to be safe.

In accordance with the law of Victoria, the words 'children' and 'child' includes all people aged under 18 years of age.

Engage believes that each child in childminding is an image-bearer of God and Engage supports and respects all children.

Engage is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children in childminding to speak up about their safety, when participating in Engage.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently in accordance with this policy, the Engage Child Safe Code of Conduct and our child safety procedures.

All allegations and concerns about children will be reported to the appropriate external authorities, in accordance with our legal and moral obligations.

Engage is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks using clear, documented, risk management measures.

Engage only engages volunteers to work with children in childminding who:

- (a) have been screened for their suitability by Engage
- (b) have a current Working With Children Check
- (c) have completed child safety training with their own church or denomination.

Engage is committed to providing a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for all children in childminding, including Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities and children with diverse needs.

Engage has zero tolerance for racism and any instances of racism will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

Engage is guided by the biblical approach in Galatians 3:28 – "all are one in Christ Jesus". Engage recognises the uniqueness of each child as a person made in the image of God, with unique attributes, including unique cultural and linguistic backgrounds and abilities, that are safely expressed and lived out within the unity of the Church in Christ Jesus. In this way, Engage pays particular attention to the diverse needs of children.

Engage has specific child safety procedures in place that support the Engage Committee and all volunteers working with children at the Engage Conference.