

Westside Christian College
Student Protection Policy
Information for Secondary Students



Westside Christian College is committed to the complete protection of all its students from harm. This is our primary consideration. Students who are safe have the best possible chance to learn, to grow and to develop into the sound, functioning adults realising the potential our Heavenly Father blessed you with.

Your Year Level Co-ordinator will inform you of the procedures you need to know in order for you to be safe.

We want to protect you from harm. Harm is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on your physical, psychological or emotional well-being, immaterial of how it is caused. It can happen once or can happen repeatedly. It can be one type of harm or a combination of different types of harm. Sometimes, people older than you make serious mistakes and do not always protect the children in their care.

If a person asks you to keep a secret and you feel it is wrong, you need to tell someone you can trust.

If you are scared of a person who is at your house or church or sporting club or you do not feel safe in the environment, you need to tell someone you can trust.

If you are in a relationship with a person and you need to escape it or the person is asking you to do things you are not comfortable doing, you need to tell someone you can trust.

If you are being bribed or coerced or forced to do sexual or physical things against your will, you need to tell someone you can trust.

There is no shame or embarrassment; you are not at fault; you have done nothing wrong, you just need to tell someone you can trust.

You can trust people at school. Who do you think you can trust at school? Hold up your hand – there are five fingers on your hand. There are five people at school you can trust.

Hold up your pointing finger – that finger is Mr Leverton. Mr Leverton wants to protect you. If someone is hurting you, you can tell Mr Leverton.

Hold up your middle finger – that finger is Mr Mansfield or Miss Balfour. These people want to protect you. If someone is hurting you, you can tell one of these people.

Hold up your ring finger – that finger is Serena. Serena wants to protect you. If someone is hurting you, you can tell Serena.

Hold up your little finger – that finger is your favourite teacher. Who is your favourite teacher? Your favourite teacher wants to protect you. If someone is hurting you, you can tell your favourite teacher.

Hold up your thumb. Your thumb is God. We know we can't see God at school but God will protect us. He wants us to be safe and has given us teachers at school to protect us.

You can also tell people we call Student Protection Officers – these people want to protect you. In the high school, these people are Mrs Niesler and Mr Davies. You can tell them anything.

It may be scary to tell someone what is happening to you – that someone you know is hurting you. But if you tell one of your teachers at school, they will believe you and will do something to protect you. Because your teachers want to protect you, they will need to tell someone who can help you. They will only tell the people who can help you. They won't tell anyone else. No one will know if you have told someone you are being hurt. It can be scary to tell someone what is happening in your life but once you have told the secret and people start to protect you, you will start to feel better.

You are marvelously and wonderfully made and God loves you.