



Child Safe Organisations: Charter of commitment to children and young people

A **Charter of Commitment to Children and Young People** is a set of commitments or promises that an organisation makes to create a safer environment for its children and young people.

This example Charter of Commitment is based on the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) and showcases commitments an organisation could make to foster child safety. These commitments are based on what children and young people have told the National Children's Commissioner during consultations on the National Principles about what they consider are the important characteristics of safety in an organisation.

Organisations may display the completed Charter in a public facing area in their organisation so that children and young people, parents and carers and the broader community can see it and know that leaders, staff and volunteers in the organisation are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

About the National Children's Commissioner's consultations

The National Children's Commissioner consulted with the children and young people in a range of organisations using a child-friendly version of the National Principles to establish which principles were the most important to them, what the concept of safety meant to them and how their rights could be upheld in a child safe organisation. We asked the children and young people to indicate the promises they would like their organisation to make to them so that they are safe. The Charter illustrates the recurring themes from the consultations. While these themes capture all ten principles, children and young people in your organisation may want to highlight some in particular.

Tools to help organisations develop their own Charter

To assist with the implementation of the National Principles, organisations are encouraged to develop their own Charter of Commitment as this encourages engagement between the leadership team, staff, volunteers and children and young people involved with your organisation. It empowers everybody in your organisation to be child safe within a child rights based framework.

You can use this Charter as a guide to help group themes that emerge from your consultations. The commitments your organisation makes will vary depending on what the children and young people tell you. For example, a young person may tell you, "I want to be included in decisions that are made". What would this look like as a commitment from your organisation? Your promise could sit within the theme "Voice" as "We (the organisation) promise that you (children and young people) are included in decisions that affect you; this means we will have weekly meetings where you can have your say."

This resource is accompanied by a **poster template**, or accessible word version, that organisations can edit and customise to make as their own.

Our promises to you...

Respect

We promise to treat you kindly and fairly every day. We will celebrate your culture, your family, and all the special things that make you YOU.

Inform

We promise to explain what is happening in simple words, so you always know what to expect. We will talk with you clearly about safe environment, online safety, and hygiene, and answer any questions you have.

Give you a voice

We promise to listen carefully when you speak, share your ideas, or tell us how you feel. Your thoughts and choices are important to us.

Help

We promise to be there when you need support. If something feels too hard, we will work together with you and your family to make it easier.

Trust

We promise to be honest with you, to keep our word, and to make sure you know you can count on us.

Safety

We promise to keep you safe in every way – in your play, in your learning, and online. We will make sure you have a caring place where you can grow, explore, and shine.

Name of organisation

Date

Hoppers Crossing Montessori Centre

