

Working with Children Policy

This policy outlines Energy Club WA's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children (under 18yrs) who participate in its activities, particularly through the Next Generation Schools Program.

1. Purpose

To ensure that all Energy Club WA staff, volunteers, and representatives engaging with students uphold the highest standards of child safety and comply with Western Australian Working with Children (WWC) Check legislation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Governors, staff, volunteers, contractors, and guest presenters involved in any Club program that includes interactions with school-aged children or youth, including school incursions, career talks, or event participation.

3. Commitment to Child Safety

- We have zero tolerance for child abuse or neglect.
- We recognise the right of every child to feel safe and be treated with respect, regardless of their background or ability.
- We support the participation of children and young people in science, energy, and engineering programs that are educational, inclusive, and fun.

4. WWC Check Requirements

- All persons who may have direct contact with children through Club programs must hold a valid Western Australian Working with Children Check (WWC Card).
- It is the responsibility of each individual to obtain and maintain their WWC Card before participation.
- A register of current WWC Cards shall be maintained by the Managing Governor and subject to audit by the Board.

5. Appropriate Conduct and Boundaries

- Club representatives must always act in a professional, respectful, and age-appropriate manner when engaging with children.
- Physical contact must be avoided unless essential for safety or supervision.
- All activities involving children must take place in school or publicly visible settings.

6. Reporting Concerns

- Any concerns, disclosures, or suspected breaches must be reported immediately to the Managing Governor or the Board President. These will be handled in line with the Club's Fair Process Policy
- Reports will be treated seriously and confidentially, and referred to appropriate authorities where necessary.
- Club members or volunteers may be stood down pending investigation of any concerns whilst presumption of innocence is maintained.

7. Supervision

- All school programs must be planned in partnership with teachers and hosted in an environment with appropriate supervision.
- Volunteers should never be alone with children without the presence of a teacher or Club-authorized staff member.

8. Training and Induction

- All volunteers and staff engaging in child-related programs will receive a briefing on this policy and expected conduct.
- This policy will be included in the volunteer induction materials and schools program guidelines.

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier in line with changes to legislation or Club programming.