



Regularly review and improve

Child Safe Standard 9



Introduction

Keeping children and young people safe is not something that happens once. It is about having processes in place for the organisation's safety framework to be revisited, refined, and improved over time. This Standard is about making space for feedback, reflection, and ongoing learning.

An organisation that reviews and improves its child safe practices is more likely to respond effectively to risk, address gaps early, and adapt to the evolving needs of the children and young people it serves.

Adapting to change and emerging risks

Children and young people change. Communities change. Risks change. This is why it is important for organisations to regularly review policies and procedures, including by responding to emerging challenges.

When organisations create safe ways for staff, volunteers, families, and children and young people to provide input, they are more likely to hear about issues early and identify opportunities to improve. This does not just strengthen child safety; it builds trust and accountability.

Continuous improvement in child safety

Continuous improvement is not about being perfect. It is about being honest, curious, and willing to learn. It is therefore important for you to consider actions you can take within your organisation that contribute to creating a culture of continuous improvement.

When staff and volunteers feel safe to make suggestions, trying new ways of working, asking questions and raising concerns, the whole organisation benefits.



Reviewing how safe and included children and young people feel helps ensure your organisation is not leaving anyone behind. This work is most effective when it is regular, embedded into practice, and supported by leadership.



Creating space for feedback and reflection

It is important to remember that being child safe is not about following a single set of prescriptive actions. Every organisation is different, and staff and volunteers have varied roles and responsibilities.

It is therefore important for you to consider actions *you* can take within *your* organisation that contribute to creating a *culture of continuous improvement*.



What staff and volunteers can do

- Participate in team reflections, evaluations, or audits of child safe practices.
- Raise suggestions with your supervisor based on what you are seeing in your day-to-day work.
- Listen to children, young people, and their families/carers and invite feedback on what could be improved.
- Reflect on whether practices are culturally safe, inclusive, and responsive to diverse needs.
- Take part in consultation or review processes and encourage others to do the same.



[Click here to learn more about conducting an organisational self assessment.](#)



Reflecting the preamble

This Standard reflects the preamble statement to the Standards by acknowledging that safety and inclusion are ongoing commitments. It is not enough for policies to exist; they must work in practice for all children and young people. That means checking whether your practices are inclusive, and that there is an openness to addressing biases, challenging past failures, and learning from others.