

Preston Symphony Orchestra: Child Safety & Wellbeing Policy

Preston Symphony Orchestra is an adventurous, committed and friendly orchestra based in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. It provides the opportunity for musicians and audience members to play and hear orchestral music of a high standard.

Purpose

Preston Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is committed to creating a safe environment for all, especially young people aged 18 and under involved in the orchestra. This policy outlines PSO's approach to child safety and well-being, informed by the Victorian Child Safe Standards.¹

Scope

This policy is applicable to the PSO Committee, Orchestra Members, Guest Musicians, Volunteers, and Performance Participants (e.g., comperes and adjudicators) with whom children may come into contact through their involvement with the orchestra.

It applies particularly to the following situations:

- auditions, rehearsals, sound checks and performances.
- other activities arising in connection with the orchestra, such as post-concert events.
- other circumstances where there is a connection to the orchestra, such as social media.

Commitments

The Preston Symphony Orchestra commits to:

- make players, performers and volunteers aware of this policy.
- have a Child Safety Officer.
- create a safe space for children of all cultures and identities, including Australia's First Peoples, by providing an environment free of racism, child abuse, and inequality.
- warrant that those directly engaging with children in support roles are appropriately qualified by verifying relevant screening checks and providing clear guidelines.
- ensure that children and their families, caregivers and teachers are directed to this policy, particularly during the annual Youth Concerto Competition, and that this policy be easily accessible on the orchestra's website.
- offer a clear, accessible and confidential channel for feedback and complaints.
- investigate any complaint or report of behaviour that may cause concern in relation to this policy.
- continue to review and improve PSO's approach to child safety by prioritising the experience and feedback of young people working with the orchestra.

Breach

If a breach of this code of conduct is believed to have occurred:

- Parties are asked to contact the President of the orchestra on info@prestonsymphony.org.au.
- Disciplinary action may be undertaken by PSO under Part 4 its constitution, as available on the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission.
- A breach may be escalated to the appropriate legal forum.

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¹ <https://www.vic.gov.au/about-child-safe-standards> Accessed 17.10.24