Presbyterian Ladies' College
MELBOURNE

ELC PHILOSOPHY

At the heart of Presbyterian Ladies' College Early Learning Centre is a deep commitment to collaboration, inclusion, diversity, and child safety. Every child, family, and educator is valued, respected, and supported within a safe and caring environment where children's rights, dignity, and wellbeing are paramount.

We believe that children are capable, curious, and full of potential. Through intentional teaching and learning, we empower children to actively engage in their world, develop critical thinking skills, and build strong foundations for lifelong learning. Meaningful relationships, thoughtful provocations, and rich learning experiences foster a strong sense of belonging and agency.

We honour and celebrate the 100 languages of children, embracing multiple ways of thinking, expressing, and understanding the world. Our play-based, holistic approach champions creativity, inquiry, and joy, inspiring a love of learning that extends beyond the early years.

Our learning environments are intentionally designed to encourage exploration, discovery, and physical development, with a strong emphasis on outdoor learning. Children are supported to connect with nature, develop resilience, and build respect for the environment through sustainable practices and everyday interactions with the natural world.

We acknowledge and embed Indigenous perspectives, valuing the wisdom of First Nations peoples and their deep connection to Country. This understanding supports children to develop respect, responsibility, and a sense of global citizenship, recognising their role within both local and global communities.

Guided by Christian values, we foster a community where communication, compassion, relationships, and respect form the foundation of all interactions. Strong, reciprocal partnerships with families are central to our practice, recognising families as children's first and most important educators.

We advocate for the rights of the child, ensuring every child has a voice, experiences agency, and is supported to grow in confidence and independence. We are equally committed to the wellbeing of our educators, recognising that supported, reflective, and valued educators create thriving learning communities.

Our commitment to wellbeing encompasses children's cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual development, while also extending to families and staff. Together, we embrace continuous learning, reflection, and growth.

Together, we create a learning journey where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to explore, wonder, and thrive.

For Office Use Only

Approved by	Principal		
Principal's signature	Emma Burgess	Date approved:	February 2026
Policy owner/s	Head of Early Learning Centre	Next review:	February 2027
Revision history	02/2025 Philosophy reviewed. Reworked for clarity of message 02/2026 Minor edits only	*This policy is subject to an annual review*	