



St. Christopher's Child Safety Code of Conduct

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Central to the mission of St Christopher's Primary School is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Christopher's Primary School against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, parents, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members at St Christopher's Primary School are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child-safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff, parents, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Adhering to the school's child-safe policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone in the school community with respect (modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe, educational and pastoral environment)
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have been abused or that they are worried about their safety or that of another child
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance policy towards discrimination)
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- Requiring students to move around the school with at least one or more other students
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership team
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic.)

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, parents, volunteers/visitors, contractors, clergy and board/school council members must not:

- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example, inappropriate sitting on laps)
- Put children at risk of abuse
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Discriminate against any child, including because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- Have contact with a child or their family outside school without the school's leadership knowledge and/or consent of the school governing authority's approval (for example, after-hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching); accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street is appropriate
- Have any online contact with a child (including social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family (except when providing families with e-newsletters or assisting and supporting student learning)
- Use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account with students
- Exchange personal contact details with students such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- Work with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Consume alcohol at a school event without the consent of the Principal or a member of the School Leadership

(adapted from Source: VRQA)

Acknowledgement

I have read and understood this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it at all times.

Name:
Signature:
Date: