



Child Safety Code of Conduct

St Mary's Primary School
February, 2018

At *St Mary's Primary School Mt Evelyn*, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel. The strength of our commitment is lived through our vision statement of: *Love Above All*

In our faith

In our words

In our actions

In our diversity

In our striving

In our sharing

In our hoping

"Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful and endures"

1 Corinthians 13: 7-8

St Mary's endeavours to create and maintain an environment where child safety is paramount and there is zero tolerance of any form of child abuse.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Mary'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, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members at St Mary'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.

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

- Accept the Catholic educational philosophy of the school; and by your teaching and other work be a personal example striving to help students to understand, accept and appreciate Catholic teaching and values;
- Treating all members of the community with respect.
- Being accessible to, and supportive of, all students inclusive of race, ability and beliefs
- Being attentive to, and removing where possible, potential hazards in the learning environment, and actively promoting child safety, in accordance with the school Child Safety Policy and Mandatory Reporting Policy.
- Maintaining appropriate confidentiality.
- Adhering to procedures that implement duty of care responsibilities.
- Updating professional learning requirements around Child Safety.
- Avoid, whether by word, action or public lifestyle, influence upon students that is contrary to the teaching and values of the Church community in whose name you act;
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school leadership
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958*
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child/ren are safe
- Reporting to the VIT any charges, committals for trial or convictions in relation to sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher which may impact negatively on child safety
- Be registered by the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

Unacceptable behaviours

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

- Be disrespectful of others
- Demonstrate prejudice against any member of the community
- Ignore potential hazards in the learning environment
- Fail to comply with the responsibilities outlined in the school policies related to Child Safety and Mandatory reporting.
- Fail to provide appropriate supervision of students as described in the Duty of Care policy.
- Fail to ignore professional learning requirements around child safety.
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any relationships with children that could be deemed inappropriate or displaying undue favouritism (e.g. offering gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (e.g. inappropriate sitting on laps)
- Put children at risk of abuse (e.g. by locking doors)
- 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

I, _____, confirm that I have been provided with a copy of the above Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Referee:

1. _____ Phone: _____

2. _____ Phone: _____

Working With Children Check Number: _____

Expiry date: _____

