



Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

At Port Fairy Consolidated School everyone needs to feel valued and feel that they belong. We want students to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all students, as well as our staff and volunteers.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Port Fairy Consolidated 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 and school council members at Port Fairy Consolidated School are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and follows the school's core values. 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, volunteers, contractors and 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 students from abuse.
- Treating everyone in the school community with respect.
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety / or the safety of another child.
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by 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 zero tolerance of discrimination)
- Promoting the cultural 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.
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse and/or child safety concerns to the school's 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 Victorian Institute of Teaching, any changes, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors and 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 special gifts or special treatment of specific children)
- Exhibit or initiate behaviours with children that may be construed as unnecessarily physical contact (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- Put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- Engage in open discussion of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal , social activities)
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children.
- Discriminate against any child, including because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability.
- To engage in any individual private tutoring of a child outside of school hours without prior approval of the Principal or assistant Principal.
- Have any online contact with the child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc), unless necessary eg by providing families with e-newsletters or assisting students with their school work.
- Use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account.
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses with children.
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardian.
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Consume alcohol or drugs at school or school events in the presence of children.

This document was reviewed and endorsed by School Council on the 26th June 2019

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000

I agree to adhere to this code of conduct

Name:

Signature:

Date:

This policy was revised on