



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
VOLUNTEER
2018 CODE OF CONDUCT
Safeguarding Children and Young People

Central to our commitment to child safety means that all students enrolled, and any child visiting St. Joseph's Cobram, has a right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

All staff and volunteers of St. Joseph's Primary School 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 volunteers 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.
- 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/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 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 to the school's leadership or Child Safety Officer.
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958.
- Reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership or Child Safety Officer.
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

Unacceptable Behaviours

Staff and volunteers must not:

- Ignore and 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 and 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 (for example, by locking doors).
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- 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.
- Have any online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family
- Use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account.
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses with children or families while on camp/excursion.
- Photograph or video a child or upload to any social media site.
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____