



ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

This Child Safety Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour for all adults towards students. The Code serves to protect students, reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur, and promote child safety in the St. Patrick's Primary School environment. It provides guidance on how to best support students and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations. Where a staff member breaches the Code, St. Patrick's Primary School may take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal. St. Patrick's Primary revises the Code annually.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

St. Patrick's Primary School has the following expectations of behaviours and boundaries for all adults interacting with students within our school community. This includes all teaching staff, nonteaching staff, Board members, volunteers (direct and indirect), third party contractors, external education providers and parents/carers.

POLICY STATEMENT

The following statements outline behaviour standards that are to be adhered to at all times by School staff, Board Members, volunteers, third party contractors, external providers and parents/carers.

All Staff, Board Members, Volunteers and External Providers of the School must:

- Behave as a positive role model to students.
- Promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of students.
- Be vigilant and proactive with regard to student safety and child protection issues.
- Provide age appropriate supervision for students.
- Comply with guidelines published by the School with respect to child protection.
- Treat all students with respect.
- Promote the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability.
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of linguistically and culturally diverse students.
- Use positive and affirming language toward students.
- Encourage students to 'have a say' and then listen to them with respect.
- Respect cultural, religious and political differences.
- Help provide an open, safe and supportive environment for all students to interact, and socialise.
- Intervene when students are engaging in inappropriate bullying behaviour towards others or acting in a humiliating or vilifying way.
- Report any breaches of this Child Safety Code of Conduct.
- Report concerns about child safety to the School's Child Safety Officer and ensure that your legal obligations to report allegations externally are met.
- Where an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the student involved is safe.
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a student's safety.
- Respect the privacy of students and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.

All Staff, Board Members, Volunteers and External Providers of the School must not:

- Engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour towards students or expose students to such behaviour.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with students.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of students or discriminate against any student based on culture, race, ethnicity or disability.
- Engage in open discussions of an adult nature in the presence of students.
- Engage in any form of sexual conduct with a student including making sexually suggestive comments and sharing sexually suggestive material.
- Engage in inappropriate or unnecessary physical conduct or behaviours including doing things of a personal nature that a student can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Engage in any form of physical violence towards a student including inappropriately rough physical play.
- Use physical means or corporal punishment to discipline or control a student.
- Engage in any form of behaviour that has the potential to cause a student serious emotional or psychological harm.
- Develop 'special' relationships with students that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific students).
- Engage in undisclosed private meetings with a student that is not your own child.
- Engage in inappropriate personal communications with a student through any medium, including any online contact or interactions with a student.
- Take or publish (including online) photos, movies or recordings of a student without parental/carer consent.
- Post online any information about a student that may identify them such as their: full name; age; e-mail address; telephone number; residence; school; or details of a club or group they may attend.
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT

Where a staff member breaches this Child Safety Code of Conduct St. Patrick's Primary School may take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.

POLICY REVIEW

The Student Wellbeing Leader will conduct an annual review the School's Child Safety Code of Conduct Policy and report the findings to a meeting of the School Executive. Any complaints concerning the methods of collection should be part of this monitoring process

ENQUIRIES

If you would like further information about the way the College Child Safety Code of Conduct, please contact the Principal or Student Wellbeing Leader.