

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Code of Conduct

St. Patrick's Primary School, Pyramid Hill



Parents, Teachers, Learners and the wider community work in partnership to provide a nurturing and innovative learning environment. All stakeholders are united for a common purpose. Social, emotional, academic, physical and spiritual wellbeing of all is a priority at St. Patrick's. We are confident we will prepare our Learners to 'Love, Learn and Respect' in the Catholic tradition. Our Learners will always be at the heart of everything we do.

Our Vision

St. Patrick's strives to:

- Provide a safe, positive and caring school environment
- Build collaborative partnerships among home, school parish and wider community
- Nurture the uniqueness and dignity of each individual in the school community
- Provide a contemporary curriculum that develops the intellect, imagination, spirituality, social skills, wellbeing and physical growth of each Learner
- Model the teachings of Jesus as the core of who we are and what we do in the context of the Catholic faith tradition
- Develop the capacity of Learners to contribute positively to society

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at **St Patrick'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 Patrick'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, 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
- 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 a 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 if the school has appointed someone to this role)
- 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 the school has appointed someone to this role)
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, 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 (for example, by locking doors) • touches a child without a valid reason
- engage in open discussions 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 contact with a child or their family outside of school without the school's leadership or child safety officer's (if the school has appointed someone to this role)
- knowledge and/or consent of the school governing authority's approval (for example, unauthorised 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 by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family (unless necessary e.g. 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 email addresses
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians • work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume levels of alcohol at a school event in the presence of children that results in intoxication
- consume drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.

At this time the Principal of St Patrick's is responsible for the role and responsibilities of Child Safety.

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

Code of Conduct and understand and agree to the acceptable and unacceptable behaviours listed.

Signed: _____

Date: _____