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Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

VISION STATEMENT

United in community,
Building on foundations for life and faith,
Unlocking potential in all.

Central to the Vision of St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is, an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St. Peter's Catholic 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 and clergy members at St. Peter's Catholic 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 and clergy are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the St. Peter'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 (modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe, educational and pastoral environment)
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have 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 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 by having a zero tolerance policy towards discrimination
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership, the school or child safety officer
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)
- reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership, the school or child safety officer
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy members must not:

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any 'special' relationships with the children that could be seen as favouritism including the offering of gifts or special treatment for children
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be constructed as unnecessarily physical such as inappropriate sitting on laps or messages
- put children at risk of abuse
- 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
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children such as personal lifestyle, medical conditions or living situations
- 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 because of 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 knowledge and/or consent or the school governing authority's approval such as 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 social media, email, instant messaging etc.) or their family unless necessary for example families with 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 while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume alcohol or drugs at school at school events in the presence of children


Acknowledgement

I have read and understood this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it at all times.

Name:
Signature:
Date:

Principal / Child Safety Officer Name: Karen Bergin
Signature:
Date: 4th December 2019

Evaluation:

St Peter's Catholic Primary School	System Update: 04.12. 2019	
Version 0.2	Date of Next Review: 2020	