

St. Scholastica's Primary School

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Safeguarding Children and Young People

St Scholastica's Child Safety Code of Conduct

**This policy must be read in the context of St Scholastica's Child-Safe Policy.
A Child-Friendly Version of this policy is provided for students.**

Vision Statement

At St. Scholastica's School, in partnership with parents and parish community, we nurture children in a positive and supportive environment, where with Christ at the centre of our Catholic beliefs and traditions, children learn lifelong values. We respect the dignity of each member of our school community by celebrating individual differences, talents and abilities. We strive to produce confident, independent learners who will respond and contribute positively in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Mission Statement

Our Mission at St. Scholastica's School is to educate the children to follow the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels, and centred in the Doctrine and the Tradition of the Catholic faith. We aim to nurture this faith development in an environment of loving care and acceptance. We strive to provide a relevant and challenging curriculum through which we will:

- promote a love of and desire for learning,
- develop academic potential
- foster independent learning

In this positive atmosphere the child is encouraged to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically.

Rationale

This code of conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Scholastica's against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse and neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and / or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and school board members at St Scholastica's 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 Safety principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable Behaviour

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and school board members at St Scholastica's are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Adhering to the school's Child Safety 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 by 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 the children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have been abused or that they are worried about their safety or the safety of another child.
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally diverse backgrounds and special needs with a **zero tolerance towards discrimination**.
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability.
- Ensuring as far as practical that adults are not alone with a child, unless this is consistent with their school role and responsibilities.
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse 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 (Victoria)
- Reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership.
- 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 or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any special relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism.
- Exhibit behaviours with children, which may be construed as unnecessarily physical.
- Put children at risk of abuse.
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- 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 age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability.
- Have contact with a child or their family outside of school without authorised agreement and with other people present.
- Have any online contact with a child (including social media, email, instant messaging) or their family outside educational purposes.
- Use any personal communication channels or devices such as a personal email account unless for educational purposes
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of a parent or guardian.
- Work with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.

Written Confirmation

I, _____ confirm that I have been provided with a copy of

the St Scholastica's Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

The Ministerial Order provides the following definition:

Child abuse includes:

- Any act committed against a child involving: a sexual offence, or an offence under section 49B92) of the Crimes Act 1958 Victoria (grooming)
- The infliction on a child, of: violence, or serious emotional or psychological harm, or serious neglect of a child.

Child connected work:

- Means work authorised by the school governing authority and performed by an adult in a school environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present

Child safety:

- Encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse.

School environment:

- Means any physical or virtual place made available or authorised by the school governing body authority for use by a child during or outside school hours, including:
 1. A campus of a school
 2. Online school environments (including email and intranet systems)
 3. Other locations provided by the school for a child's use (including, without limitation, locations used for school camps, sporting events, excursions, competitions and other events)

School Staff being:

An individual working in a school environment who is:

- Directly engaged or employed by a school governing authority
- A volunteer or contacted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person in an intermediary)
- A minister of religion

Review Date:

The Child Safety Code of Conduct was reviewed August 2020 by:

Jenny Rohan- Principal. Signed

Christine Reed- Wellbeing Leader. Signed

It is to be reviewed annually by the students (SRC), Staff, Parents and Carers (Advisory Board) and Wellbeing Team The next review date being February 2021

This policy is endorsed by Father Thanh Tran as the governing authority of the school

Signature _____ Date _____